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STM to be held Saturday, March 27

Drive-in style meeting planned

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – There will be a Special Town Meeting this Saturday, March 27, at 10 a.m., at the Ware Junior Senior High

School lower parking lot. The date was originally set for April 10, as discussed at the last SelectBoard meeting on March 16.

It will be a “drive-in” style meeting, where residents will stay in their vehicles, and the moderator and other speakers will have their remarks communicated over vehicle FM radios. It

will cover a range of town needs, which were scheduled to be part of a STM in November, but had to be rescheduled due to safety concerns around COVID-19.

The SelectBoard held a short meeting Tuesday to discuss setting a second Special Town Meeting for Saturday, April 24, at 9 a.m., at WJSHS, most likely on the football field.

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said Moderator Kathleen Coulombe was not available to moderate the meetings on April 10, when both STMs were originally scheduled by the SelectBoard.

114 Main St. demolition

The meeting this Saturday will cover a range of issues, including whether voters will approve \$425,000 to pull down a private-

ly-owned commercial building, 114 Main St., which was deemed unsafe by the town. The town ordered the owner to pull the building down by Oct. 1, which has not happened.

The building is also causing problems to the multi-million dollar Main Street redesign project, which is funded through state

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Mary Lane DPH public hearing set for April 1

To be held by conference call from 6 to 9 p.m.

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – The Massachusetts Department of Public Health will hold a hearing on Baystate Health’s proposal to close the Mary Lane satellite emergency facility and other services by conference call on Thursday, April. 1, from 6 to 9 p.m.

In January, Baystate Health announced its intention to close the Mary Lane campus, including the emergency facility, cancer services and other medical services. The company has said it wants to end Mary Lane’s emergency services and cancer services by the end of June, and then phase out the other medical services over an 18-month period.

The company said the reasons they are seeking closure include fewer patients coming to Mary Lane for care, the difficulty in getting doctors to locate their practices at the campus and the hospital building needing \$5 million worth of work for it to remain up-to-date.

Area state legislators and boards of selectmen have signed a letter requesting the emergency services closure be postponed until June 2022, and have requested a meeting with Baystate officials to discuss the request.

The Ware SelectBoard has created a committee, which has town officials as well residents on it to help the town as it works with Baystate Health officials through the closure.

Baystate Health has offered to demolish the buildings at the end of two years, and make sure

Please see **MLHL**, page 2

Passenger rail team optimistic

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

REGION — The wheels of government are known to turn excruciatingly slow, but citizens and public officials pushing for the creation of a passenger rail line from Pittsfield to Boston are feeling some momentum building.

In one instance, someone in a position to exert power has given the project a legislative push. State Sen. Eric Lesser, D-East Longmeadow, who represents the First Hampden and Hampshire districts, introduced a bill called “An Act to establish fast, frequent, and reliable passenger rail service between Pittsfield and Boston via Springfield” to codify the proposal and unlock tens of millions of dollars in state funding that has been approved but remains unspent.

“I don’t know that’s going to pass or anyone is going to do that, but it was a stroke of genius on Lesser’s part to basically say, ‘we want this to happen. You will start running east-west rail passenger service in January 2022,’” Ben Hood, chairman of the Rail Steering Committee, said during a recent meeting held virtually over Zoom.

The bill says MassDOT “shall run passenger rail service between the cities of Pittsfield and Boston via Springfield at least five-times daily on the existing CSX rail line. The department may utilize the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority or contract with outside entities in order to run said passenger rail service. The department may also utilize a portion or all of the \$50 million in capital authorization allocated for East-West passenger rail service.”

Co-signed by senators Anne Gobi (Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire, and Middlesex), Joanne Comerford (Hampshire, Franklin, and Worcester), Rebecca Rausch (Norfolk, Bristol, and Middlesex) and representatives Brian Ashe (Second Hampden), Jake Oliveira (Seventh Hampden), Kelly Pease (Fourth Hampden) and Todd Smola (First Hampden), the bill also directs MassDOT to “conduct an economic impact analysis on the economic benefits and transformational impact” of

Please see **RAIL**, page 8

TWO FIRES IN FIVE DAYS

Man dies in Palmer Road house fire

Cause of fire deemed accidental

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – A fire at a Palmer Road home led to the death of an occupant, John Hebert, 58, according to Northwestern District Attorney David Sullivan’s office.

Sullivan, State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey, Ware Fire Chief Christopher Gagnon and Ware Police Chief Shawn Crevier announced the fire at the one-family home, at 402 Palmer Road, on Friday, March 19, was accidental.

The fire was reported at 7:20 p.m. on March 19, and firefighters attempted to resuscitate the victim, but were not successful. “On behalf of the fire department and the town of Ware, I offer our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends,” said Gagnon.

Investigators determined that the fire started in the basement of



John Hebert, 58, died in a house fire at 402 Palmer Road on the evening of Friday, March 19.

the one-story, one-family home. They were able to eliminate the electrical system as a possible cause. In the area of origin there

was evidence of smoking and candle use, either of which could have started the fire, officials said, but there was no evidence that the fire

was started intentionally.

When firefighters arrived at the

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The second fire in a week was reported at 11:45 a.m. Tuesday at 135 Main St., a multi-use building with 12 residents and two business spaces.

Fire displaces 12 people

No injuries in Main Street fire

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – The second fire in town in less than week was called in Tuesday at 11:44 a.m. after smoke was seen at an apartment and retail building at 135 Main St., although no one was injured.

The several story building has apartments on several floors and retail establishments. Fire departments from Belchertown, Warren, Palmer and Bondsville provided mutual aid in helping with the fire and coverage for the town.

North Brookfield Fire Chief Joseph Holway happened to be in Ware at the time, and was first on the scene helping to make sure residents got out

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SelectBoard candidates forum set for March 27

WARE – There will be a Ware SelectBoard candidates’ forum on March 27, at 2 p.m., which will be recorded by Ware Community Television. There will be no audience and Ware TV will put the recorded forum online later the same day.

The four candidates are Alan Whitney, Keith Kruckas, Caitlin Maureen McCarthy and Josh Kusnier.

The Ware River News will be developing questions and is also asking residents to send in questions they think are important to ask the candidates to ekennedy@turley.com.

A Turley Publications employee will be asking the questions, and a story about the forum will be in the April 1 edition of the Ware River News.

The Town Election is scheduled for April 12.

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One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

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Orszulak receives 2021 Partners in Excellence Teacher Award

WARE – Congratulations to Ware Junior Senior High School Math Teacher Dan Orszulak on receiving a 2021 Partners in Excellence teaching award from Mass Insight (Mi). This award is presented to Advanced Placement (AP) STEM & English teachers from across the commonwealth who have made a significant impact on AP student success.

Orszulak wears many hats at Ware Junior Senior High School; he is a math teacher, basketball coach, department chair and mentor. Regardless of the role, the impact that Orszulak makes on his students



Dan Orszulak

reaches far beyond their days at Ware Junior Senior High School. The lessons he teaches his students prepares them for life and stays with them forever. It is common place to see former students return back to the community and share their gratitude for the life lessons that he has taught them. The school community is lucky to have him.

He was honored in a virtual ceremony on March 4.

For more information about PIE visit www.massinsight.org/partners-in-excellence-2021. For more information about Mass Insight, go to www.massinsight.org.

Ware resident Kristine Lynch promoted at Quality Beverage

TAUNTON – Quality Beverage L.P. President and CEO Conrad Wetterau, one of New England’s largest stand-alone independent distributors of Anheuser-Busch InBev branded products, today announced the appointment of Kristine Lynch as director of administration for the company’s divisions in Auburn, Chicopee and Taunton.

“Kris’ promotion represents the outstanding team effort that she and every employee display while driving growth that allows Quality Beverage to move forward and prosper,” said Wetterau.

In her new role, Lynch will oversee day-to-day activities of general office operations in all three of the company’s divisions.

She is a graduate of Western New



Kristine Lynch

England University (formerly Western New England College) and has worked in the beer industry for more than 35 years. Most recently, she served as an information technology manager for the company. A lifelong resident of Ware, she lives with Mark, her husband of 34 years.

Since 1987, Taunton-based Quality Beverage LP has provided beer drinkers with fresh beer as one of New England’s largest stand-alone independent Anheuser-Busch distributors. Quality Beverage enjoys exclusive distribution rights for all Anheuser-Busch InBev brands, as well as a number of additional leading import and craft brands, in 137 Massachusetts cities and towns across Worcester, Bristol, Hampden, Hampshire, Norfolk and Middlesex counties.

Ware River Valley chaplaincy program available

WARE – The Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force offers domestic violence victims and survivors a program with one-on-one counseling with a chaplain, who has received training on domestic violence and other related issues.

In 2013, recognizing the central role that faith and spirituality play in the lives of many domestic violence victims and survivors, the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force launched an interfaith initiative on domestic violence. In 2018, after years of reflection, outreach and training in the community, Task Force members became aware of the need for one-on-one spiritual support for victims and survivors, many of whom both rely on their spirituality for strength, and are separated from their faith community or spiritual practice as a result of abuse.

The program’s mission is to support the spiritual well-being of victims and survivors of domestic violence in the Ware River Valley by providing trained lay and ordained domestic violence chaplains who can provide spiritual support to survivors regardless of their individual faith or spiritual tradition.

Trained chaplains are available to meet, talk or text with victims or survivors. Chaplains might help a survivor reconnect with their own spiritual strength, tradition or practice, or they may simply offer insights and support after listening to a survivor describe their spiritual background and/or current

needs. Chaplains can also offer prayers for survivors upon request. Above all, chaplains are trained to follow the lead of the survivor, to honor the variety of faiths and spiritual practices survivors may bring forward, and to maintain safety and confidentiality.

Chaplains receive 25 hours of training on domestic violence prior to joining the program, including training on sensitive issues such as sexual abuse and coercion that arise in the context of domestic violence. Chaplains also receive on-going training once they have joined the program as well as monthly peer supervision and consultation groups. This program is not ‘confessional’ in nature. If confessional services are requested, an appropriate referral will be made.

After three meetings, survivors are strongly encouraged to also work with a domestic violence advocate. Chaplains meet regularly with advocates, and are available to meet with a survivor and advocate together.

A referral for a chaplain can be made by contacting the BHN Domestic Violence Supervisor at 413-750-8053 or 413-967-6241, ext. 122, or by contacting the Task Force directly at wrvtaskforce@gmail.com or 413-758-0605.

Chaplains are either ordained or sponsored by an ordained faith leader from a faith community.

To learn more about the program, contact the Task Force at wrvtaskforce@gmail.com.

Are You Old News?

Each week the Ware River News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured.

Email your answers by Monday at noon to ekennedy@turley.com.

Last week's photo ran in the Ware River News 57 years ago when Ware Scout Troop 577 got ready to head to the World's Fair by bus. It was provided by Ware native and well-known cartoonist Dave Granlund, who sent it to be put on display with the newly-found Troop 577 flag in the Ware River News window. Granlund said he was 14 at the time and can be seen under the W in Ware. We hear others have been recognized but they haven't sent those names on to us – if you recognize them or you recognize yourself, please send the names, and your full name, on to ekennedy@turley.com.

We also have a new photo this week for your viewing pleasure, so please send answers and your full name on to ekennedy@turley.com.

Law offices of Mark E. Salomone awarding \$3,000 in scholarship prizes

Three prizes will be awarded based on essays about distracted driving

BOSTON – The law offices of Mark E. Salomone in Massachusetts are proud to sponsor a nationwide essay contest focusing on innovative ways to prevent distracted driving. The three essay winners will receive \$3,000 worth of scholarship prizes for education-related expenses.

The essay contest is open to current or admitted undergraduates (including graduating high school seniors) and law school students who will be attending accredited colleges or universities in the United States in fall 2021. Proof of enrollment will be required to receive the award. Essays must be between 500 and 1,000 words long. The essays will focus on how to prevent distracted driving and promote safe driving habits among young drivers.

Distracted driving, especially sending or reading a text, poses a threat not just to the driver, but to

their passengers, people in other cars and pedestrians. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, from 2014 to 2018 more than 15,000 people were killed in crashes involving a distracted driver, and teens ages 15-19 have the largest percentage of fatal crashes due to distracted driving.

The winning essay will be awarded \$1,500. The second prize winner receives a \$1,000 prize. Third place receives a \$500 prize. Only one essay can be submitted per student. Essays must be original content.

The application deadline is May 31. Winners will then be announced on July 31. Applicants can view the rules of the contest and apply online at the following web page for the law offices of Mark E. Salomone at www.mark-salomone.com/scholarship.

Each submission must include:

- An essay as a Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx format)
 - A digital photo of applicant (in .jpg or .png format)
 - A school transcript or proof of enrollment
 - Applicant’s name, address and phone number
 - School name and address
 - A short, two to three sentence bio
 - A waiver form with a parent or guardian’s signature for applicants under 18
- The law offices of Mark E. Salomone have decades of experience practicing personal injury law and obtaining justice for their clients, including more than \$500 million in settlements and verdicts. The law firm has 10 locations in Massachusetts, including offices in Boston, Worcester and Springfield.

MLH from page 1

the site is clean before deeding the property over to the town. Officials have said if a use can be found for the building, they would happy to help with that process as well.

The healthcare company has also said it will work to make transportation available for Ware residents to go to Wing Memorial Hospital in Palmer and the company’s Springfield hospital, Baystate Medical Center. It has said it hopes to make primary care more accessible to Ware residents in Palmer.

FATAL from page 1

home they did not hear smoke alarms sounding. Department of Fire Services code compliance officers could not determine if the two smoke alarms they found in the home were functional, as they were significantly older than 10 years old.

“Like every other appliance in our home, smoke alarms don’t last forever,” Ostroskey said. “The smoke alarms that are more than 10 years old must be replaced so you can rely on them when you need them most.”

The Ware Fire and Police Departments and State Police assigned to both the Office of the State Fire Marshal and Sullivan’s office jointly investigated this fire. Assistance was received from the state Department of Fire Services and other State Police Crime Scene Service Section.

MAIN ST. from page 1

safely, said Fire Chief Christopher Gagnon. Tenants also made sure other tenants got out of the building as well.

There are about 12 people living in apartments in the building on the upper floors, and two retail spaces on the first floor. One retail space was vacant and the other is used by Feelin’ Good Nutrition. The building is not useable at this time, according to Gagnon, and will have to be rebuilt. It is owned by Gary Buelow.

The fire started in the kitchen of apartment 7 on the third floor, he said, and is believed to be unintentional. There was fire damage to that apartment, and smoke and water damage to other parts of the building.

The first four firefighters on the scene with an engine did “a fantastic job” of getting the fire under control, Gagnon said. “Getting lines to the third floor of a building isn’t easy, and those four firefighters suppressed this fire and got in check,” he said.

Gagnon said when exiting a burning building people should try to close the door of the area they are leaving to compartmentalize the fire and make it harder for it to spread.

Gagnon also urged people to make sure their fire and carbon-monoxide alarms have fresh batteries and if they are 10 or more years old, they should be replaced.

The first fire over the past week happened on Friday, March 19, and resulted in the death of 58-year-old occupant, John Hebert. The cause of that fire was deemed accidental.

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Dogs must be licensed by March 31

Late fees begin April 1

WARE – State law requires that all dogs six months should be licensed.

Ware Town Hall remains closed to the public, however town employees are working every day and will process individual’s requests to license whether the information is left in the drop box located outside the lower level offices or sent to the town clerk’s office by U.S. Mail. However, dogs must be licenses before Wednesday, March 31.

On April 1, there will be a late fee of \$15 per dog in addition to the license fee.

If a resident’s dog was licensed last year, check the paper licensed issued at that time, which includes the following:

Each dog listed separately by name.

The expiration of the rabies vaccine listed per dog.

The information about the fee determination, such as male/female or spayed/neutered.

If a resident’s dog has a current rabies vaccination and it is not expired, it is not necessary to supply the rabies certificate.

If your dog has received a new rabies vaccination since the dog was licensed in 2020, it will be necessary to include the new certificate, which will be returned to you when the license is issued.

All requests to license must include any changes to the information on file with the town clerk’s office, such as owner name and address, and telephone number.

All requests must also include a self-addressed, postage-paid envelop to return the license and tags to the owner. Be sure to place sufficient postage on the envelope or the post may not deliver it back to the recipient.

The mail address for the town clerk’s office is Town Clerk, 126 Main St., Suite F, Ware, MA, 01082.

Anyone licensing their dog for the first time, the following information is needed: rabies certificate that lists the do as being altered and a self-addressed, postage-paid envelope.

Dog license fees are the same as last year: male/female, \$10, spayed/neutered, \$8.

Any resident who did not license their dog in 2020 will need to call the town directly at 413-967-9648, ext. 177, to discussed the amount owed.

Nancy Curtis Scholarship available

WARE – Applications are now available for the Nancy Curtis Scholarship in the Ware, Palmer, and Belchertown Public Schools Guidance Department. Deadline for completion of the application is April 5, and should be forwarded to Mrs. Sandra Piechota, 269 Palmer Rd., Ware, MA 01082.

April 24 STM on water filtration plant scheduled

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – A Special Town Meeting asking voters to approve borrowing \$13.3 million to build a water filtration plant will be held Saturday, April 24, at 9 a.m., at the Ware Junior Senior High School, and will most likely be held on the football field.

On Tuesday, the SelectBoard approved the meeting date after it was determined Town Moderator Kathleen Coulombe would not be available for April 10, when this STM was originally scheduled back-to-back with another STM, which is now scheduled for this Saturday, March 27, at 10 a.m., at

the WJSHS. The March 27 will be a drive-in style meeting using FM broadcasting that voters will be able to hear in their vehicles.

The filtration plant will filter out iron and manganese, which should greatly reduce brownish red sediment in the town’s water. The town has said there are no health issues with the water, but many residents prefer not to use it for cooking.

The process for designing and funding the plant began in 2016, and Annual Town Meeting voters approved the borrowing of about \$6 million for the plant on May 8, 2017. On April 24, voters will be asked to rescind that vote. The town has also re-applied for a

USDA grant and loan for most of the cost.

Voters will also be asked to accept a portion of state law that will allow it to create a Water Plant Stabilization Fund, and to dedicate 100% taxes from cannabis retail stores to the fund.

At their last meeting on March 16, SelectBoard members voted 4-1 to recommend to STM voters that they approve dedicating all cannabis tax revenue to the water plant, but it has been determined that cannabis cultivation businesses pay only real estate taxes, which cannot be dedicated to one purpose. Real estate taxes from cannabis cultivation and solar farm projects could be voted by future town

meeting voters to go toward paying for the water filtration plant.

SelectBoard member John Morrin questioned why the two Special Town Meetings dates had to be changed.

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said the dates were set without checking with the moderator first. “If we decide we’re going to have a town meeting, and the moderator is busy, then we need to a choose a second moderator,” Morrin said. “We should have the moderator here at the meeting (when the date is chosen) or at the very least know her availability.”

Morrin also said he was frustrated because now the water filtration plant issue will be decid-

ed a month later than originally planned.

Two other articles

Also on the seven-article warrant is a request to spend \$72,000 to reconstruct Grenville Park’s drainage and to make ball field repairs. Last summer the town was awarded a \$50,000 state grant for the work, and the town’s share will be the remaining \$12,000.

There is also an article requesting the release of an easement at 127 Church St., from 1938, which was probably for a water pipe, Beckley said, but which was never used.

QRSD Committee votes to bring preliminary budget to hearing

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

The Quabbin Regional School District Committee voted to bring the preliminary fiscal 2022 budget figure to a public hearing. A two thirds vote was required.

Director of Administrative Services Cheryl Duval presented the full School Committee at its Monday, March 15 meeting with the preliminary fiscal 2022 budget of \$37,178,779, a difference of \$2,185,238 over the \$34,993,541 FY 21 budget or a 6.2% increase. The preliminary budget added 10.4 positions, which included two new teachers at Ruggles Lane and one at Hardwick, a library/media director at the middle/high school, special education para legals and a transitional first grade. The budget also listed website improvement to make it user friendly and with timely updates.

On the capital spending side for the middle/high school were \$10,000 for roof repair, \$87,000 for a chiller air compressor and \$141,340 for fire panel replacement. Capital expenses on the elementary side included \$50,000 for a generator at Ruggles Lane School in Barre, \$75,000 of parking lot paving at Hardwick

Elementary school, roof and window repair at Hardwick and \$48,900 for elevator repair at the Hubbardston Center School. The individual towns were responsible for those capital expenses. Duval said the food service director applied for grants for some cafeteria equipment.

Duval said the facilities budget had a 8.9% increase of \$284,468 due to hiring six extra custodians for COVID-19 cleaning and the chiller compressor. Technology infrastructure increased by 12.6% or \$65,560. Benefits went up \$1,298,796 or 25.3%. She said the Worcester Regional Retirement increase by \$86,623 and health insurance by 4.2%. School choice and charter tuition decreased by 18.8% and special education instructional tuition decreased by 8.4%

Duval said the school district used \$1million from the Excess and Deficiency account to reduce last year’s budget. School choice funds paid for 15 teachers and four school choice buses. The current E & D balance was \$586,522.

Only New Braintree of the five member towns had a decrease in its local contribution. Resident enrollment for Barre was six less than last year, Hardwick had a

21 student increase, Hubbardston had five more, New Braintree had 13 less and Oakham increased by three students. The total resident enrollment as of October was 1,845, the same number as the year before. Eighty-nine students school choiced out and 13 attend charter schools, nine less than last year.

Duval said the preliminary budget used the governor’s budget, the only budget available at the time, to calculate state aid. She said the house budget should come out in April and the senate budget in May. Last year, the house finalized its budget in November and the senate in December.

Other business
The school committee voted to admit Narragansett Regional School District to join the Keystone Educational Collaborative. They also approved approval of an additional trip to Galapagos Islands for February 2022. A trip was approved for April, 2022. The additional trip would allow all the students, who want to go. The committee also approve an amendment to transportation in the school 2020-2021 reopening plan and the 2021-2022 school year calendar.

School committee okays switch from hybrid to in person

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

BARRE – In an emergency meeting, the Quabbin Regional School District Committee Tuesday night approved a switch from the hybrid model at the middle/high school to full in-person learning.

Superintendent Dr. Sheila Muir presented a plan to the School Committee due to modifications issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Her plan called for no significant changes at the elementary school, which had in-person learning since school opened last September.

The directives from the state would not affect students on 100% remote learning, but hybrid learning would no longer be permitted. On March 5, the Commissioner of Education said as of April 5, all elementary students must attend school in person five days a week if not opting for full-remote. As of April 28, middle school students in a hybrid model must attend school

five days per week. He had not set the return date for high school students, but it would be shortly after the middle school group.

The commissioner also would not allow remote learning after this school year. He did not believe hybrid or remote learning was effective. Muir said 22% of students are learning remotely. The state also increased the capacity of students on buses.

Muir said if social distancing changed to three feet from six feet, it would allow for the return of all students. Middle/high school students would attend school five days per week instead of the two days. However, the school hours would remain the same 7:30 a.m. to noon. The district would need to purchase more furniture as spare desks at the middle/high school went to the elementary schools to accommodate lunches with social distancing. The school present-

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and federal funds. The town paid design costs.

Last summer and fall, Ludlow Construction, the contractor for the project, and MassDOT, who oversees the project, informed the town that the building at 114 Main St., might possibly collapse when the heavy roadwork begins, and have said no heavy work will be done in front of it.

At a recent meeting with MassDOT officials, the town was told all other work would be done but work in front of 114 Main St. would be minimal.

An article asking for the building’s demolition failed at a previous STM held last summer.

2021 budget amendments

There is also an article requesting \$246,100 for amendments to this year’s budget, fiscal 2021, which will come from money the Board of Assessors put aside to cover tax abatements and from free cash. The assessors have determined that \$136,128.92 will be available from these overlay monies, and \$109,971.08 will come free cash.

Among the list of 17 needs are \$50,000 in legal fees, \$40,000 for DPW overtime left out of the original budget, \$19,000 for a Council on Aging replacement of the Senior Center’s hot water

heater, \$27,000 for police salary for a new police officer and police academy costs and \$15,000 for repairs to the Fire Department’s HVAC system in its computer room, according to the meeting warrant.

There is also a request to put \$245,000 in the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund for future post-employment benefits and health costs for retirees.

There is also a request to put \$81,750 in the town’s Stabilization Fund, which would be taken from free cash, and an article to transfer \$81,750 from free cash to the Capital Stabilization Fund.

Capital items

Among the items on the warrant are almost \$100,000 for an integrated financial software package, which would replace an array of different programs; a \$51,000 for a new four-wheel drive water service truck for the Water Division; \$17,000 for a water division air compressor; a \$42,000 backhoe for the School Department; \$32,000 for a School Department pick-up truck; \$68,000 for a Parks Department truck; \$60,000 for a police vehicle; borrowing \$254,000 for a

Department of Public Works dump truck with snowplow \$50,000 to remove and dispose of hazardous public shade trees, and \$30,000 to remove wood and brush at the old gravel pit at the former Banas farm on Robbins Road.

As part of the STM warrant, there will be explanations about why each item is needed and what will be done with the item it is replacing, in the case of vehicles. There will also be information on whether the SelectBoard, town manager and Finance Committee have recommended the articles be approved.

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The Ware River News will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 3. To request a correction, send information to ekennedy@turley.com, or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor, 80 Main St., Ware, MA 01082.

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SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Claiming Social Security now to preserve savings

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: One of the big pieces of the Social Security puzzle that everyone seems to miss is the protection of other retirement funds. If I did not take Social Security, I would have to dip into my retirement savings to fund the early part of my retirement. I took Social Security at my full retirement age rather than wait, so I am preserving my retirement account that has historically been getting 8 to 9% interest over the last 30 years. Social Security will never give me anything close to those returns. *Signed: Smart Investor*

Dear Smart Investor: You are, of course, correct that preservation of retirement savings is important. It's also correct that everyone's personal financial situation is different. If your retirement nest egg has historically provided a return of 8 to 9% over the last 30 years and will continue to do so, then I believe you made the right choice by claiming at your full retirement age (FRA), and preserving those high-return investments.

But many are not as fortunate as you and have their nest egg sitting in low-interest IRAs and bank savings accounts, and those folks may have a different perspective. They may choose an option to delay claiming Social Security to get a higher monthly benefit, initially using some of their low-return savings, but allowing them to preserve their overall savings much further into their retirement because of a higher Social Security benefit. And most often, continuing to work provides them added ability to delay claiming Social Security to get that higher benefit.

Personally, I do not advocate withdrawing from retirement funds in lieu of claiming Social Security. But I do suggest that waiting past FRA to claim a higher benefit may be wiser than claiming earlier and investing the Social Security money, trying to beat the 8% yearly benefit growth realized by waiting to claim. It's an unfortunate reality that high-return/low-risk investments are very difficult to find these days, and most seniors are loathe to put their money in high-risk investments to get higher returns.

Again, everyone's situation is different, and each must choose based upon their own circumstances. Many who contact us about their Social Security options intend to continue working beyond their full retirement age. Those folks might adopt a strategy where they delay past their FRA to get a higher Social Security benefit for the rest of their life, made possible because they are still working and earning (rather than withdrawing from investments). If they're in good health and will achieve at least average life expectancy, they will not only enjoy a much higher monthly benefit, but they'll also receive more in cumulative lifetime

Please see **SSI**, page 5

Just about a month ago I decided to re-pot a number of my "houseplants." I figured the timing was good, since before too long the plants would be responding to longer days with increased growth. They would relish new soil and more room for their roots to sprawl in the bigger pots I would provide. While I have never really felt that my outdoor "green thumb" has transferred to indoor plants, I've managed not to kill enough of them so that one morning of February vacation was spent with my hands in potting soil liberating them from a fate of being root bound in the same tired soil.

One of my favorite houseplants is the Gerber daisy. Most people think of this plant as a summer annual, and it technically is here in the northeast, but frugal Yankees (i.e. Mom and I) have been keeping them alive through the winter for years now. Its pretty pastel daisy-type flowers remind me of those the prankster clowns use to squirt water in the faces of unsuspecting folks. In our house we call it the "happy plant." I had three good-sized pots of them, all with tired soil. It showed by how yellow-green the leaves were. I moistened my compost-based Coast of Maine potting soil and proceeded to pry the plants apart, giving the divisions a fresh pot and a splash of liquid fertilizer once back on the windowsill. I am happy to say I now have one flower and a few others awaiting in the crown! Success!

Three other plants typically grown as annuals were saved from winter's chill and brought indoors as an experiment. One was a lobelia plant that grew in a ceramic pot by my front door all summer. Usually lobelias peter out during the dog days, but this newer variety kept right on blooming right through the

heat. For the fun of it, I cut it back in late October and put it, pot and all in my mud room. Lo and behold, it started to grow. I provided it with light, some fresh soil and said liquid fertilizer, and it is actually sporting a few blossoms right now. I am only hoping it will be happy indoors for several more weeks; thankfully lobelias are fairly cold hardy so I can probably get it outside earlier than most flowering plants.

Another annual I overwintered is heliotrope. Given to me as a gift last summer, its purple, vanilla-baby powder scented flowers provided a olfactory pick-me-up whenever needed. Admittedly, this plant struggled over the winter but with fresh soil and a brighter window it is thriving once more. The same goes for a coleus that I got from a my friend Jean a year and a half ago. I decided take cuttings of all three to increase my coffers and happily both the coleus and the lobelia have rooted. It's been tricky to keep the almost furry heliotrope leaves from wilting while awaiting roots. More research necessary there.

Late last spring I made a mixed planter with succulent type plants for my porch. I used what I had, including two tiny kalachoe plants rescued from where I don't recall. They looked so pathetic that I planted them almost in the same hole to make one decent-sized plant. But alas, in just three months of good soil and a warm porch they tripled in size and by February were full of aphids. After a soapy bath they were separated, each given their own pot. Now, one has flower buds! I have read that kalachoes are easy to propagate. Simply take a cutting of terminal growth two to three inches long, stripping off all but the



Roberta McQuaid

top 2 or 3 leaves. Allow the stem to callus and then insert into a free-draining type of potting soil, one comprised of peat moss and perlite is ideal. Begin checking for roots in about a month.

Another plant that faced true liberation a month ago was an amaryllis that I received in a fancy clear container. The bulb was waxed, or maybe even covered in some kind of plastic. Hard to tell. All you had to do was put it on the shelf, no potting up required. Something did not set well with me about this fancy new modus...they want you to throw it away afterwards! But I kept my comment to myself, thanked the person who gave it to me and watched as it bloomed, nicely, but on a shorter stem than what I am used to. Once the flowers had passed it looked as though another stem wanted to put out flower buds, but it just sort of sat there. I decided I would operate, gently peeling the wax off the bulb. After planting in potting soil the amaryllis did bloom and has since put out healthy white roots this last month. Next it will grow a healthy crop of foliage then go dormant before blooming again next fall/winter.

It was a lot of fun to repot and experiment with my "houseplants." Maybe I've had some success because not all of them were intended for the house all along. Or maybe my luck is changing!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

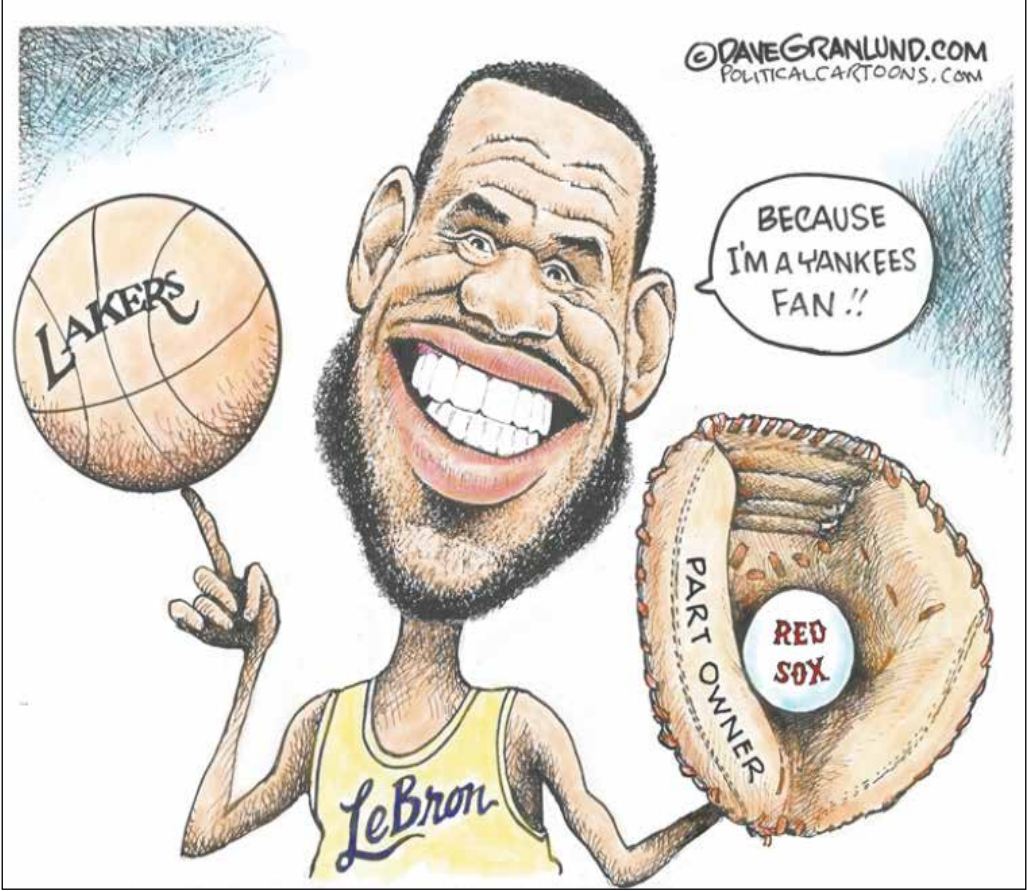
Reader recommends kubb as a backyard game

Small gatherings and yard games are a safe way to have fun during pandemic. We are all familiar with cornhole, horseshoes and volleyball, but what about the game of "kubb"? Kubb is a Swedish lawn game of skill and strategy and is played in an area measuring 26 feet by 16 feet called the pitch.

The basic object of the game is to toss wooden dowels underarm in attempting to topple your opponent's baseline blocks of wood, which in Swedish are called kubbs. In the center of the field is the king, which is similar to the eighth ball in pocket billiards. The game can be played one-on-one or up to six players against six. This game can be enjoyed by the entire family.

To learn more about this fantastic sport just go online and look up the video "TV broadcast of 2018 U.S. Kubb Open Beloit Wisconsin." Kubb sets can be purchased online also, but be sure the game is regulation in size and made of hardwood.

Bill Paul,
Kubb game instructor
and enthusiast, Chicopee



Thanks for the support

Thank you to the community for such an outpouring of support at our corned beef dinner at Trinity Church. Luckily we had a warm sunny day and the smiles in the line of cars as we brought out the meals to them were equally as bright!

Barb Newton,
Trinity Church Episcopal Mission Committee

WARE RIVER NEWS

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submissions is
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2021Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

What you need to know about the coronavirus variants

SPRINGFIELD – Despite leading the world in COVID-19 infections and being well-equipped with an unsurpassed genome sequencing infrastructure, the United States found itself in the unfortunate position of falling well behind other countries in sequencing coronavirus genomes and getting ahead of emerging variants.

Now back on track and identifying variants that have begun in the United States, including in New York and California, scientists are increasing their COVID-19 sequencing efforts as many question: "Should I be worried over the variants?"

Dr. Armando Paez, chief in the Infectious Disease Division at Baystate Health, answers some pressing questions about what role the variants are playing in the ongoing pandemic.

Q: Are the coronavirus variants that have emerged over the past few months a cause of concern for epidemiologists?

A: Any time a new variant of the novel coronavirus SARSCoV2 is discovered, there is cause for concern. The major variants reported not only in the U.S., but also in other parts of the world, B.1.1.7 (UK), B.1.351 (South Africa) and the P.1 (Brazil) are found to be more infectious than the original SARSCoV2 strain. More recently, home-grown variants, B.1.526 from New York City and California variant B.1.427/B.1.429, have also been reported.

Any of the variants can become the circulating strain in a population and can spread easily to others in a geometric fashion. This carries significant public health importance and urgency as more people can get sick at the

same time and overwhelm the healthcare system. Scientists are still studying these variants and are also on the lookout for new ones that are emerging. More recently, the B.1.1.7 (UK) variant, thought to be just easily transmissible, is now associated with a higher risk of dying from COVID-19 based on a peer-reviewed study. Depending on the variant, the mutations (changes in the genetic code) can confer resistance to some available COVID-19 treatments.

For example, bamlanivimab, a COVID-19 monoclonal antibody authorized for the treatment of mild-moderate COVID-19 is thought to be ineffective against B.1.341 (South Africa) variant. Thus, the variants also carry clinical importance for COVID-19 patients. However, not all COVID-19 treatments may be significantly impacted by the variants. For example, mutations identified in these new variants have not significantly changed the part of the virus that remdesivir, an FDA-approved drug for severe COVID-19, targets.

Q: What do these new variants from the United Kingdom, South Africa, and Brazil, as well as those that have originated in the U.S., share in common, and what makes them different from the original COVID-19?

A: All of these five variants mentioned above have mutations in the spike protein that allow them to latch on better to and infect human cells, making them more transmissible (up to 50% more). All of these variants have now been detected in the United States, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the UK variant is expected to become the dominant strain in the U.S. by the end of March. There are currently,

3,136 cases of the variant in our country as of March 7, according to the CDC.

Early on, South African researchers believed their variant could evade antibodies produced by the immune system. This can imply possible reinfection to occur as the antibodies cannot neutralize the variant virus. This was seen in the P.1 (Brazil) variant. Scientists continue to study how these variants can potentially evade immunity to COVID-19.

Q: Are the new variants more deadly?

A: This is an evolving story. Initially, scientists thought that there was no evidence that the infection from any of the variants is more deadly than the old strain. A recent study suggests that there is an association of B.1.1.7(UK) variant with higher risk of dying from COVID-19. I expect that more information will be available regarding the other variants in the near future.

Q: Why did it take a while before we began to see different variants of the coronavirus?

A: Viruses such as SARSCoV2, the virus behind COVID-19, naturally mutate and viral variants occur. Many variants emerge and disappear, but some persist because their accumulated mutations offer a "survival of the fittest" advantage among others over time to become the dominant circulating virus.

Q: Is there a difference between a variant of the virus and a mutation, and which is more problematic?

A: A viral mutation refers to specific changes or alterations in the gene of the virus. This is a natural occurrence in the life of a virus, particularly an RNA virus like the coronavirus. Some mutations do not change how the virus behaves, but some do affect its charac-

teristics related to its ability to attach to the host cell, for example. This can potentially confer higher risk of transmission of infection given a number of viral particles compared to the old strain. A variant refers to a virus with slight changes in the genetic codes due to these mutations. Depending on the effect on how the virus behaves due to the genetic changes, whether a single mutation or a combination of mutations, it may or may not be problematic. It can be problematic to the host, but offers an advantage to the virus to survive. A variant may become the dominant strain because of its survival advantage in a given environment. What is also important to remember is that if there is more viral replications occurring, let us say, more infections in the community, there is a greater chance for more mutations to occur. That is why interrupting the cycle of transmission can lessen the chance of variants to occur.

Q: Why are these variants more easily transmissible?

A: The variants have mutations in the spike protein enabling them to latch on and infect human cells more easily. Many of these mutations are in the receptor binding domain of the virus. The mutation E484K, common in these variants, can increase the affinity of viral protein with its receptor, thus explaining its ability to be easily transmitted.

Q: Since these variants are more transmissible, does that mean the recommended safety precautions will no longer work to prevent spread of the virus?

Please see **VARIANTS**, page 5

The Centered Place offers student scholarship

WARREN – The Centered Place Yoga Studio of Warren will reward a deserving student of Quaboag Regional High School a scholarship of over \$1,000. The Centered Place aims to help support a student who wants to pursue a higher education so they can have a greater positive impact in the local community and world. The student will be selected based on financial need, the student’s activity in the school and community, and their own stated intentions.

The Centered Place regularly donates to local charities and causes. Toward the end of 2020, a guidance counselor at Quaboag Regional, Eric Urban, asked The Centered Place if it would be willing to offer a scholarship to one of the seniors. “We jumped at the opportunity,” recalls Phil Milgrom, co-director of the studio. “The way the political climate has been, and with all the social unrest as well as the anxiety and tragedy from the pandemic, we wanted to help in any way we could.”

He and Nancy Nowak, the other co-director and founder of The Centered Place, see this as an opportunity to make a difference. “Young people are our future. How this country ends up, and the whole planet by that matter, hinges mostly on the younger generation today”

he said. “We will choose a student who is highly motivated and cares deeply about the future.”

To become a candidate for the scholarship, students are required to fill out an application available at the school, provide three letters of recommendation and write an essay that answers the following questions:

What change the student would like to make in the world?

How would the student make that change?

What obstacles might be encountered along the way?

What major obstacle has the student overcome in his or her life and how will this help that student succeed?

The Centered Place is contributing \$250 toward the scholarship while the rest is being raised by clients and friends of the studio. A fundraiser is ongoing. To contribute, you can send a check to The Centered Place, P.O. Box 1210, Warren MA 01083-1210 (write “For QRHS Scholarship” on the memo line).

QRHS serves students from Warren and many other towns in the area including West Brookfield, Ware, Palmer, Southbridge, Monson and New Braintree.

Anyone with questions may contact Milgrom at 413 436-7374.

Planning board denies ZPT extension

Czub plans to retire

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARREN – The Planning Board unanimously denied a 12-month extension to the special permit and site plan application by ZPT Energy Solutions II LLC for its solar project on Reed Street.

Warren’s town counsel has advised the board that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and an accompanying state of emergency statewide, it is premature to extend any such permits as they remain on hold during the emergency, according to Planning Board members.

The special permit was due to expire on April 8, but due to the hold on these permits statewide, it will not expire on that date.

Board member David Dufresne also said a letter should be sent to ZPT Energy regarding the company’s Coy Hill Road solar project informing them the board found a number of issues of concern during a recent site visit. He said it was important to document the issues and request a response from the company. He also said ZPT has refused to enter into a payment in lieu of taxes program with the town and they are not paying taxes

on that property.

Fire Chief Adam Lavoie said the Fire Department had responded to the Coy Hill property when a machine, a side-by-side, went out of control and partially flipped, injuring one worker. The worker was transported to the hospital to be checked for lacerations. There was no fuel spill from the accident, he said. Lavoie said he checked carefully for spillage due to the proximity of a retention pond.

Copart

The board also voted for a continuance for the special permit and site plan public hearing for Copart of Connecticut Inc., but did not set a date for it. Copart wants to operate a junkyard/automobile graveyard at 600 Old West Warren Road. Copart has also asked for a copy of the residents’ petition against the business, which has been given to them.

Kathy Czub

The board briefly discussed Kathy Czub’s retirement with her and the plans to hire someone to replace her. Board members asked her for a job description and to add anything she does that isn’t listed

on it. Czub assists the Planning Board and the Building Inspector.

The position will be advertised, applicants will be interviewed and hiring should take place by June 1, so Czub can train the new person, she said. The board would prefer to hire a Warren resident, but living in town is not a requirement. Czub said whoever is hired would have to be a team player as the current staff all get along very well. Planning Board member Drue King said there should be a probationary period for the new employee.

Public hearings

The board set several public hearings, which will all be via Zoom, the video conferencing application.

A public hearing for the zoning-by-law changes proposed by the Planning Board was set for Monday, April 19, at 7:15 p.m.

A public hearing for a special permit for 81 South St. LLC, has been scheduled for April 26. It is the old Hardwick Knitters building, and the owner wants to have a furniture storage business, necessitating a change of use special permit hearing. Fire Chief Adam Lavoie said he had spoken to the owner about making building keys

available to the Fire Department, as well as plans for a sprinkler suppression system test and an emergency lighting plan.

A public hearing for Donna Floria’s special permit for the post office building on Main Street in West Warren was set for May 26. Planning Board members said Floria wants to add more apartments to the multi-use building, which has apartments on the upper floors and the post office and a business on the first floor.

Solar project buffers

Dufresne said the Planning Board has to check with town counsel about a lack of 150-foot buffers for existing solar farm projects. He said original plans were approved with 150-foot buffers and those buffers were included in the board’s special permit and site plan approval with conditions.

He said the previous Planning Board did not put the buffer in the conditions and some of the projects have been built with smaller buffers.

He said the town would have to have all its “i”s dotted and “t”s crossed before discussing moving solar panels at existing projects.

Quaboag Regional Middle High School second period honor roll

WARREN – The Quaboag Regional Middle High School released its second period honor roll.

FIRST HONORS

12th grade: Ania Bolaske, Tyler Bond, Sadie Bridges, Megan Courtney, Kirah Czub, Brooke Dion, Liam Flynn, Joshua Gray, Matthew Griffing, Eli Homon, Kylee Julian, Allison Kelleher, Lauren Kimball, Hannah Martin, Madeline Nemeroff, Sarah Niedzialkoski, Alyssa Ricci, Nicholas Robbins, Elizabeth Schwenker, Darian Shepherd, Cassidy Silva, Andrew Sweet and Jenna Wade.

11th grade: Alyssa Abbe, Emma Aberle, Elias Berthel, Alexander Carter, Riley Como, Jaden Darnell, Clare Jetter, Ainslie Lafko, Katerina Landon, Sydney LaRocque, Paris Prinsen, Grace Schmidt and Joline Wheeler.

10th grade: Jakob Bond,

Brendan Burke, Phoebe Clowes, Preston Clowes, Cadel Courtney, Elizabeth Czaja, Paige Dion, Luisa Feeney, Katelyn Fountain, Andrew Gagnon, Emily Hunkins, Serenity Kauppila, Josephine Landon, Summer Mageau, Arian Masterjohn, Adrik Matys, Victoria Morgan, Bryan Joseph Para, Wylliam Pennington-Russell, Cody Perron, Chase Potvin, Charles Schwenker,

Ninth grade: Ethan Araujo, Isabelle Burgess, Alexandra Cacace, Antonio Congelos, Forrest Dezfoli, Cloe Fredette, Madison Hamlin, Jason Houle, Ayla Iwaniec, Dawson Kelly, Abigail Long, Rachel McGrath, Hanna Nermeroff, Lily Potvin, Thomas Robidoux, Kenady Sloan, Riley Sloan, Haileigh Swistak and Patrick Toomey.

Eighth grade: Isabelle Aberle, Aviendha Andreoli, Juliette Boos, Lila Broadley, Talon Clark, Skylar Cook, Abigail Jolin,

Dante Martino, Norah McElroy, Erin McGrath, Aidan Michon, Nora Pennington-Russell, Norah Schwenker, Katelynn Swistak, Breanna Towlson, Parker Tunley, Sebastian Veliz-Baldzion and Makenna Williams.

Seventh grade: Emma Astrella, Juliana Augusto, Madelyn Bagg, Isabelle Bellizzi, Trevor Bigda, Shelby Bridges, Jacob Cacace, Kenadi Chenevert, Greigh Cloward, Emma Dion, Brennan Doe, Gabriela Feeney, Serenitee Gagnon, Brianna Hawk, Evangeline Iwaniec, Alison Jones, Morgan Lakota, Gabriel Moberg, Olive Moulton, Kaitlyn Nault, Camden Olivo, Ava Ostrout, McKenna-Shea Pavini, Jacob Plante, Madeline Potvin, Jason Read, Madison Schreier, Madison Leigh Sears, Grace Smart and Elijah Wilhelm.

SECOND HONORS

12th grade: Paisleigh Atwood,

Abigail Bouchard, Elizabeth Chambers, Sydney Corfey, Cole Crosby, Melissa Drago, Caitlyn Fox, Justin Janosz, Grace Kelly, Hannah Kitch, Zowie LaFlash, Christopher Laprade, Austin Lourake, Grace Ortiz, Sophia Rimmer and Ryan Seeton.

11th grade: Bryanna Anderson, Jakob Burrill, Sierra Cromack, Lauren Gassnola, Jacob Harder, Zoe Harder, Aniah Harris, Emma McGinty, Margaux Morales, Sean Moriarty, Ezekiel Powers, Derrick Shepherd, Hannah Southwick and Allison Tiberii.

10th grade: Brandon Allen, Arianna Belen, Ian Bruni, Declan Flood, Alexandra Garrand, Kiara Gauthier, Madison Gray, Zhoe Guidetti, Grance Hannah, Madelynn Huard, Gage Willem Lane, Kayden Lourake, Hannah Manzano, Allison Marsh, Rebecca Martin, Tristan Mauro, Kadin Milligan, Joseph Novak, Gabriel Paquette, Angelina Paradis,

Isabelle Russell, Megan Shea, Margaret Stevens and John Wilk.

Ninth grade: Camrin Bolduc, Bryce Douglas, Jenna Duff, Aidan Flood, Cameron Giroux, Laine Hatstat, Emma LaFleche, Kendall LaRiviere, Evan Long, Samantha Martin, Alexander Russo, Owen Stevens and Matthew Tiberii.

Eighth grade: Matthew Gattuccio, Elise Kopec, Hailey Letourneau, Madison Neilsen, Jason O’Keefe, Victoria Powell, Emily Savage, Liam Smith, Cristyna Tambolleo and Hart Waz.

Seventh grade: Michael Atkins, Connor Burgess, Connor Burke, Gretchen Conn, Dustyn James Cook, Summer Dezfoli, Emily Forcier, Landon Hogan, Ily Martel, Kelsey Olson, Alyson Williams, Camden Williams and Harrison Wilson.

THIRD HONORS

12th grade: Evan Allen, Paige Baldwin, Ashlynn Cook, Emily

Gibeault, Douglas Harvey, Cabot Lacey, Lauren Lamoureux, Daniel Mazzaresse, Conner Merrill, Jessica Tetreault and Bethany Vogel.

11th grade: Andrew Araujo, Laci Blount, Parker Doe, Samantha Ford, Jonah Gervais and Keertan Patel.

10th grade: Aaden Caruso, Julien Compher, Cody Goodrich, Aja Noelle Mercer, Lynne Merrill, Hailey Samek, Lucy Sanelli, Rhea Smith and Ryan Wilson.

Ninth grade: Mason Blount, Allison Brooks, Matthew Carter, Olivia Dumas, Ryan Fernandez, Isabella Paolucci, Dylan Piazzo, Jacob Routhier, Cole Waz and Tyler Withers.

Eighth grade: Parker Chaffee, Olivia Collins, Sadie May, Brayden Ryan, Mykenzie Sheldon, Elizabeth Tetlow, Brianna Valley and Nina Vorobiova.

Seventh grade: Allison Duszlak, Mia Letendre, Evan Merrill, Kimber Peyman and Jack Stevens.

SSI from page 4

benefits by waiting longer to claim Social Security.

Finally, often lost in the argument to claim at or after FRA is that, for a married couple, a surviving spouse receives 100% of the benefit the deceased spouse was receiving at death. That surviving spouse benefit will either be a smaller FRA amount or a larger (e.g., age 70) amount, depending upon when the higher earning spouse claimed. Point is, if you are married, when you claim may

also affect your spouse’s survivor benefit, so life expectancy of both spouses should always be included in the decision on when to claim. In any case, from what you’ve written I believe that your choice to claim at your FRA in order to preserve your high-return investments was a prudent move for your personal circumstances. And I admire the careful thought you put into that decision.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions

and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisors@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

VARIANTS from page 4

A: Currently recommended safety precautions – vaccination, social distancing, mask wearing, hand-washing, and isolation and quarantine - should still work in preventing infections from these variants. Again, if these variants are not given a chance to replicate, the less chance they have to further evolve and survive in the community.

Q: If the same precautions are enough, why do scientists say more people could become infected in the months ahead?

A: Vaccine rollout in the U.S. is now making progress, but we are not yet at the level of herd immunity, estimated to be 60 to 70% either by natural infection or vaccination. Since these variants are more transmissible, if the public is not compliant with recommended safety measures, more exposures and infections will easily occur. The increased number of cases will put more strain on health care resources, lead to more hospitalizations, and potentially more deaths.

Q: Will the currently available vaccines protect against the variants?

A: Based on the most recent

evidence, the currently available COVID-19 vaccines can still broadly protect you, albeit at differing level of efficacy, from the circulating variants. B.1.1.7 (UK), B.1.351 (South Africa), the P.1 (Brazil) and the two variants – New York and California. The B.1.351 (South Africa) variant more significantly impacts efficacy of the available vaccines. B.1.526 (New York) strain appears to have a similar effect but much less so. Recent reports also suggest that these variants may evade the immunity from natural infection or escape the antibodies from previous infections. Similarly, this can impact the efficacy of the COVID-19 monoclonal antibodies authorized to treat COVID-19. This is closely being investigated and hopefully, more information will be available in the near future

Q: What is not known about the variants?

A: We still do not have a complete picture of how widespread these variants are in the United States and around the world. The CDC is now closely monitoring this as it has huge implications epidemiologically. As mentioned above, these can affect future decisions and interventions in order to curb

the pandemic. For example, vaccine designs and booster shots are already being discussed in order to get ahead of the circulating variants.

Q: Do we expect other variants to surface?

A: Yes, expect more variants to occur in the future unless we stop the circulation of the virus in the community. As mentioned above, if there is less viral replication, there is less chance for viral mutations, hence variants, to occur.

Q: Will the new variants prolong the pandemic?

A: The new and emerging variants can potentially prolong the pandemic because of their ability to be more easily transmitted. This will also depend on other factors such as compliance of the communities to public infection control measures, our ability to detect these variants, the vaccination rates in the community affecting the chance of achieving herd immunity sooner than later, the risk of reinfection, and availability of effective treatments on the new variants.

For more information on Baystate Health, visit baystate-health.org.

RETURN from page 3

ly did not use COVID-19 weekly pooled testing, but it would implement it with the increased number of students in the building and extra days. Participation in the COVID-19 pooled testing was voluntary. The superintendent said the increased school population would also increase the need to quarantine. Teacher office hours at the middle/high school would change from Tuesday through Friday from 12:50 to 2:05 p.m. to Monday through Friday from 1:30-2:05 p.m. The week at a glance would continue. Middle and high school students instead

of taking home a lunch would have lunch at school and take home breakfast for the next day like the elementary students.

Muir proposed bringing back all middle/high school back to five-days on Monday, March 29. Sixth-graders would be included in this plan. She said students would gain 49.5 hours of in-person instruction and “the sooner we get students in for in-person the better.”

Changes at the elementary level if more students returned would include higher bus capacity and possible under six foot distancing in some cases.

Evan Barringer, of the Teacher

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Cub Scouts from Ware Family Pack 520 played disc golf and explored around the pond at North Brookfield Town Forest Park.

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

WARE – Ware Family Scout Pack 520 held its first hike of the spring season this past Saturday, March 20, at North Brookfield Town Forest Park, off Route 67.

Town Forest Park features a nine-hole disc golf course, along with trails and a small, man-made pond. Most of the Scouts had never tried disc golf before, but they all enjoyed trying to navigate their disc to the hole. Throwing their discs around trees and over streams proved to be a challenge, one that the Pack faced enthusiastically.

By the time they had reached the third hole, the Scouts were confidently reaching their target and experimenting with different throwing techniques and discs. Many were surprised to find that each type of disc produced a different result. The distance disc traveled the farthest, while the putter was easier to land in the basket attached to the hole.

After completing the course, the Pack explored around the pond, hoping to see amphibian activity. While slowly melting, there was still a significant layer of ice covering the pond. The Scouts are hoping to return in a few weeks to check for any signs of frogs or



Ware Family Pack 520 held its first hike of the season this past Saturday at the North Brookfield Town Forest Park, which included a chance to play disc golf.

salamanders.

Ware Family Pack 520 enjoys two hikes a month on the first and third Saturdays. The next hike will be Saturday, April 3, to the fire tower off Ragged Hill Road in West Brookfield. The trail to the fire tower passes by vernal pools which should be stirring with amphibian life with the predicted warm weather during the day,

and above freezing temperatures at night.

Boys and girls in kindergarten to fifth grade are welcome to join Cub Scouts. For more information about joining Ware Family Pack 520, people may contact Cubmaster Chris Boos at lotecredneck3.3@gmail.com or 413-345-0448, or find the Pack on Facebook.

North Brookfield Savings Bank hires new president and CEO

Will work with Donna Boulanger until her December retirement

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Following an extensive search, the Board of Trustees of North Brookfield Savings Bank is pleased to announce that Marco Bernasconi, Jr. will succeed Donna L. Boulanger as president and Chief Executive Officer. Bernasconi will join the bank as the president on April 5, and work along-side Boulanger over the remaining months of this year. Upon her retirement, he will also assume the title of Chief Executive Officer.

Boulanger Donna remain involved with the bank as a Trustee and Corporator. “I am honored the Board and Donna have placed their confidence in me to lead North Brookfield Savings Bank into the future and to continue serving its customers and the community,” said Bernasconi.

Marco joins the Bank from COCC where he worked for 27 years. He joined COCC as a loan Customer Representative and rose through the ranks and most recently held the position as Senior Vice President, client service officer, chief service officer, a role he has held since 2010. While at COCC, he gained experience in many areas of banking and business, including; strategic planning, risk management and Fintech. COCC is an award-winning, client-owned financial technology company servicing financial institutions throughout the Northeastern United States.

Bernasconi’s strong Fintech and digital banking knowledge are the perfect fit for the bank’s strate-

gic goals moving forward. “I am confident that this change will be a positive one for the bank, the staff and the community as a whole. We must continue to look forward and find ways to evolve and innovate so that we may remain independent and true to our mission and core values,” said Boulanger. “Today is a very humbling day for me as I reflect back on my first day of work at North Brookfield Savings Bank some 13 years ago. I came to North Brookfield because I believed in this bank. I saw then how clearly we empower people and ultimately make the community a better place. These are the same mission and values that continue to motivate me today.”

“While the bank has seen great success, the leadership team is eager to do more and evolve to keep pace with the changing technology and trends. The banking industry has changed over the years at a rapid pace, one with which, we must keep up with. It’s the next chapter in banking. “I am excited to leverage the traditions of the past with an eye on advancing technology and digital capabilities moving into the future,” said Bernasconi.

“We are fortunate to have someone of Marco’s caliber and experience to lead the bank. We are at a critical moment and we need new and fresh leadership to not only continue our good work but to take advantage of the market opportunities ahead. With Marco’s proven track record of execution, his strong communication skills and leadership capabilities, we are confident in the future



Marco Bernasconi Jr.



Donna Boulanger

of North Brookfield Savings Bank,” said Boulanger.

Bernasconi is looking forward to the future and getting to know not only his internal team, but the community members as well. “I have spent my career preparing for this opportunity. I’m fortunate to have worked with hundreds of community financial institutions and look forward to leveraging all this experience in the communities that we serve,” he said.

North Brookfield Savings Bank is a mutual savings bank with full-service branches in North Brookfield, East Brookfield, West Brookfield, Ware, Belchertown, Palmer and Three Rivers Village of Palmer.

NBSB offers a wide variety of deposit and loan products for individuals and businesses throughout Central and Western Massachusetts and has been a steadfast supporter of the communities in which it serves since 1854.

North Brookfield Savings Bank recently announced they received a 5-Star Superior rating from BauerFinancial. The bank has earned and maintained this 5-star rating for 100 consecutive quarters, which means that North Brookfield Savings Bank qualifies for an elite designation of a “Sustained Superiority Bank.” This status is reserved for the top 10% of the nation’s banks, those that have maintained BauerFinancial’s highest 5-Star rating longer than 90% of the industry. All deposits are insured by the FDIC and the Depositors Insurance Fund.

St. Aloysius Catholic School releases honor roll

GILBERTVILLE – St. Aloysius Catholic School released its honor roll for the third semester of this school year.

High honors: Eden Fanelli,

Hannah Fanelli, Hannah LaRochelle, Joseph Pacek and Mary-Kate Pacek.

Honors: Anthony Adams, Sophia Adams, Anthony Araujo,

Madison Clough, Andrew Letendre, Alex St. Jaques and Lucas Skoczyas.

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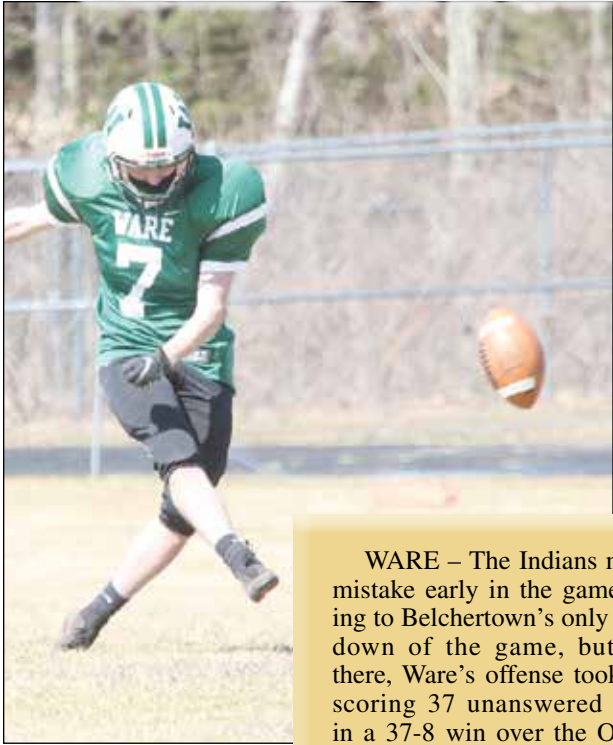
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Ware overcomes early mistake, scores win



Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

WARE – The Indians made a mistake early in the game leading to Belchertown's only touchdown of the game, but from there, Ware's offense took over, scoring 37 unanswered points in a 37-8 win over the Orioles. Ware was playing for the first time since Thanksgiving morning in 2019. Ware will play at South Hadley on Friday night, March 26 at 6 p.m.



The Ware defensive tries to break through Belchertown's line.



Andrew Soltys returns a kickoff.



Keith Smith scores a tackle.



Rockheem Handfield rushes into the crowd of blockers.



Dillon Slattery takes the snap.



Quaboag football returned to the field last Saturday morning against Oxford.

Cougars hit the gridiron

WARREN – Last Saturday morning, Quaboag High School football returned to action at home against Oxford High School. Oxford scored late in the second quarter and would end up taking the win 14-0.



Brendan Burke makes a tackle on an Oxford ball carrier.



Drew Martinez punts the ball away.

Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Derrick Shepherd drops back for a handoff after receiving the snap.



Several Quaboag players combine on a defensive tackle.

Valley Wheel Baseball seeking new talent

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – The regular season is just a month away and the members of the Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League are excited to be playing baseball again.

Last year, the season was cancelled once parks were closed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

An attempt was made by commissioner Jim Nason to hold a short season once modified rules for activity were allowed, but there was not enough interest to keep the league operating.

Now, the league is gearing for a full season, but between circumstances changing during the pandemic and the modifications currently in place for sports The league is definitely in need of more baseball talent.

Nason is hoping "quarantine fatigue" and the need to get out-

doors and get active will draw new players to tryouts when they start next weekend.

Tryouts for the league will take place Saturday, April 3, and the next two Sundays, April 11 and 18.

There are normally six teams in the league and the hope is to continue to have that tradition as players begin to make their way out to the fields. The normal Valley Wheel season is 15 games beginning April 25 this year and going until the end of July. The league plays nine-inning games, allowing all participants an opportunity to get plenty of at-bats and lots of time in the field.

The top four teams in the league make the playoffs and the semi-finals and finals are held in the first two weeks of August. The schedule also features a couple of weeknights games and a special

Please see **BASEBALL**, page 8

Purse structure announced for 2021 season at Thompson

WATERBURY, VT and NAPLES, ME – American-Canadian Tour (ACT) and Pro All Star Series (PASS) officials have announced the purse structure for the five weekly divisions set for competition at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park in 2021.

A total of nearly \$24,000 in posted awards have been set to be distributed to the Sunoco Modifieds, Late Models, SK Light Modifieds, Limited Sportsman, and Mini Stocks at each event. All five divisions will compete as part of the six-race oval track event schedule at Thompson, which begins with the annual Icebreaker on April 10 and 11. The schedule also includes four Wednesday night races in the summer (June 16, July 7, Aug. 11 and Sept. 15) and the Sunoco World Series (Oct. 8 to 10).

"When Tom (Mayberry) and I agreed to take on this role at Thompson, one of our priorities was posting a fair purse for all divisions," ACT managing partner Cris Michaud said. "I raced for 20+ years, and I experienced firsthand the value of an extra dollar. We've put together a competitive structure that rewards everyone who shows up and will help teams get their cars to the track."

The roar of the Sunoco Modifieds will return to the high-banks with drivers chasing a \$1,500 winning prize for their 30-lap feature races. With \$900 on the line for second, \$600 for third and \$200 to start each race, the Sunoco Modified purse itself rises over \$8,500. Some of the top names in local Modified racing

Please see **RACING**, page 8

sports

College conference moves forward with spring competition plan

WESTFIELD – The eight Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Presidents announced today that they have approved a plan to have competition for the spring sports of baseball, men’s golf, women’s lacrosse, softball and men’s and women’s outdoor track and field. The presidents have also approved the continuation of practice for fall and winter MASCAC teams subject to health and safety, testing and tracing protocols in place to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

“The MASCAC continues to meet regularly with the presidents, athletic directors, athletic trainers and other essential staff as we bring our student-athletes back to the playing field, safely, while adhering to all state, federal and NCAA guidelines,” said MASCAC Commissioner Angela Baumann. “It is our intention to have these athletic events as long as the conditions allow us to move forward safely. The MASCAC office and eight MASCAC Presidents will be monitoring practices and competition to ensure the continued health and safety of our student-athletes and staff.”

It will remain the decision of each member institution to determine if they can safely participate in intercolle-

gate athletics this spring and in which sports they will permit competition. These decisions will be made in consultation with campus health professionals and the MASCAC Commissioner.

The presidents have approved a conference schedule where the institutions will play the same school each week in baseball, softball and women’s lacrosse. In addition, the membership has approved a men’s golf and outdoor track and field championship. Additionally, the presidents have authorized institutions to schedule non-conference contests, provided all non-conference teams follow prescribed MASCAC health and safety guidance and protocols. Institutions will not be traveling to compete against teams out of state.

As the MASCAC teams continue to participate in athletic activities, it is the continued responsibility of all student-athletes and staff to stay diligent in their safety efforts on and off the field of play. Individual member institutions reserve the right to halt competition if the health of the campus community is put at risk. In the event of an increase of COVID-related cases on any of our campuses, the schedules may be adjusted, which might include stoppage of play.

“The presidents are excited to move forward with plans for spring sports competition,” said Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts President James Birge, Chair of the MASCAC Council of Presidents. “As we plan for spring sports competition, we will continue to fine-tune protocols to ensure the safety of student-athletes, coaches, staff and the campus communities,” said President Birge.

Consistent with state restrictions on gathering limits, spectators will not be permitted at MASCAC contests at this time. This policy may be revisited for outdoor sports if conditions improve and subject to state and local health authorities’ guidance. For the enjoyment of family, friends and fans of our student-athletes, the MASCAC will continue to livestream contests on MASCAC.tv.

Throughout the 2020-21 academic year, the MASCAC will be celebrating its’ 50th anniversary with special features, facts and trivia commemorating the event. Our conference has a rich history of success on the playing field and in the classroom. Over the academic year, the conference will be highlighting the student-athletes, teams, coaches, and administrators from the last 50 years.

Sign up for Quabbin Valley Baseball

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Baseball League is an age 28-and-over league which plays its games Sundays at 10 a.m. beginning in late April and concluding in late August. It is a six-team league and a 15-game schedule with all teams getting at least one playoff game at the end of August.

The league is seeking new players to join in the fun. The cost to play in 2021 is \$192.50 and registration can be found at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Games are mostly being played this year in Easthampton and South Hadley. Players who wish to pitch in the league must be 30-years-old.

Sign-ups are active and players who are not already on a team will be placed in a draft, currently scheduled to take place on Sunday, April 11.

The league’s first games are tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 25. For the 2021 season, there is a mask-wearing rule, as well as modifications that prohibit any type of spitting or close contact, and players are required to take out all trash they bring in with them. The league allows the use of BBCOR-certified -3 bats as well as wood bats. Games are nine innings and all players who participate get to hit and play the field. For more information or to contact someone from the league, go to the league’s website.


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Athlete of the Month



Keith Smith

WARE

Congratulations to Keith Smith, who scored his 1,000th career point in his final game for the Indians.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Month, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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BASEBALL from page 7

Mother’s Day weekend Saturday game.

There are still modified rules for adult baseball under the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, which requires mask-wearing, social distancing when possible, and no spitting among the habit baseball players are not allowed to engage in. While the game play is largely the same, the mask-wearing rule was one that was the subject of controversy last summer and ultimately led to the cancellation of the shortened season.

With vaccinations in Massachusetts clearing one million people and the state entering Phase 4 of the re-opening plan earlier this week, Nason is hopeful the restrictions will ease as the season goes on, especially as it relates to gathering.

Valley Wheel Baseball is ready to get started again. Tryouts were held last summer before the season ultimately had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

Comradery is one of the staples of the league, which has usually included tailgating after games. That is a practice that will also have to be on hold until restrictions lift.

For more information on getting involved in adult baseball, go to www.valleywheelbaseball.com. To play in the league, you must be 28-years-old before June 1. In order to participate in the league as

a pitcher, you must be 30-years-old before June 1. Players can participate in at least one of the three tryouts dates, usually held at Blunt Park, and then a draft is held prior to the start of the season.

RAIL from page 1

the rail line, which would include a depot in Palmer, and seek out additional funding sources.”

Crunching numbers

Early in the steering committee meeting, members discussed the critical cost-to-benefit ratio in a MassDOT study completed last year. Widely panned as inaccurate by passenger rail advocates because of the method MassDOT used to arrive at its figure, the CBR is typically a deciding factor in whether or not projects are eligible for federal funding. The East-West Rail is projected to come with a price tag of at least \$2.4 billion, and perhaps as much as \$4 billion.

“The economic impact analysis, that could be a positive and make something happen that helps allay the CBR,” Hood said.

Whatever the mechanics, steering committee members said they think the stars could be aligning for the project. The Biden administration has promised a massive national infrastructure project and is known as a fan of passenger rail. His Transportation Secretary, Pete Buttigieg, is a close friend of Lesser’s from their college days and Massachusetts has some influential voices in congress, including House Ways and Means Committee Chair Richard Neal and Sen. Ed Markey, who serves on two transportation-related subcommittees. Both have gone on record as in favor of creating the new passenger rail line.

“We should leverage our federal partners when there’s an opening for that,” steering committee member Jessica Sizer, a Palmer Town Council member, who was appointed as the town of Barre administrator nearly a year ago.

Steering committee member and Palmer Community Development Director Sarah Szczebak, said she learned while applying for federal bridge grants that “rail projects are eligible” and was surprised to discover the “grades” assigned to various projects, which include their CBRs, don’t always carry as much weight as having a well-placed advocate.

“If someone gets in their ear and says ‘I want this project in Massachusetts,’ you get on the list whether you scored high or not,” she said.

“It sounds like you can easily overcome (an unfavorable CBR) if

you have a strong enough champion in Washington.”

It’s also possible that MassDOT will revisit the CBR. The most recent study recommended a second look along with other continued fact-finding.

“The MassDOT study suggested there would be state officials working with federal officials looking at this benefit-to-cost ratio because the project is (coming up short of) meeting the required ratio for funding,” Linda Leduc, Palmer’s town planner, and a steering committee member, said.

Hood said he’s encouraged by all the tailwinds and reminded the rest of the committee there is \$50 million in the state budget for the project still waiting to be tapped.

“Now, \$50 million doesn’t get us a train, but it does cover things like planning and preparatory work of some sort – if they decide to appropriate and spend it,” he said.

“And we can start small. It doesn’t have to be that two to four billion. It can be something smaller to get the project going.”

Leduc said another encouraging sign is a call she had last week with an aide in Neal’s office that confirmed “Congressman Neal not only understands our need for bridge repair, but is very aware of the rail project. I thought that was promising,” Leduc said.

“Hopefully,” she added, not entirely half-joking, “we get some bridge money too!”

Depot planning

Last month, Palmer Town Council tasked the committee with shifting its focus to what Town Manager Ryan McNutt described as a “station site committee” and during last week’s meeting committee members rehashed some past studies and discussed what they need to move forward.

Scarlet Lamothe, a committee member who wasn’t in last week’s meeting, said in past meetings and forums that her family’s restaurant – Steaming Tender, inside Palmer’s original depot – is interested in having the platform for a new passenger rail line built nearby. Her family even purchased more property in the vicinity that could be used for parking, she said. Hood referenced those comments as an example of the mindset the steering committee should adopt.

“We’re at that point where we should think ‘what if this were to happen?’ and figure out the factors of what goes into this decision,” Hood said.

“We probably want to have a platform compatible with Amtrak,” he said because of potential ties to the Springfield-New Haven line now in service. At some point, Hood said, the town and committee will likely need to contract with a consultant to help sort through the options available.

“All these technical details, we need to resolve,” he said.

Leduc estimates it would cost between \$50,000 and \$75,000 to hire a consultant.

“I’ll keep my eye out for funding sources in the meantime but I’m sure there’s funding out there,” she said. “There is plenty of grant money out there, but it’s probably something we’ll tackle next fiscal year.”

Committee member Anne Miller suggested money from the state transportation bond Gov. Charlie Baker signed last year could be used to pay for it.

The committee also plans to follow up on a suggestion from a prior meeting to start researching how other towns have built new rail platforms. One thing is clear: Committee members plan on moving the project forward at every opportunity.

“We need to stay on MassDOT’s radar,” Hood said.

Submitted photo

Information has been released for racing purses for the 2021 season.

RACING from page 7

are expected to compete, including Keith Rocco, who looks to continue his dominance of the competitive class on Thompson’s 0.625-mile oval. Other names expected for the opener include Troy Talman, a former Thompson winner.

The Late Models, which will again follow ACT Tour rules — including the addition of the new Hoosier tire — will chase \$1,200 to win. As part of a purse better than \$7,000 throughout the field, Late Model drivers will open the season with a 40-lap special at the Icebreaker. They will continue to thrill Thompson fans with some of the top competitors from across New England. Names like Woody Pitkat, who swept both races in 2020, along with Nick Johnson, defending ACT Tour Rookie of the Year Derek Gluchacki and more will be in competition.

The Limited Sportsman are set to return with a purse over \$3,000 of their own and \$350 on the line to win. Known as one of the most exciting divisions at Thompson each year, the Limited Sportsman keep fans on the edge of their seat with two, and often three-wide action throughout the field.

Early entries for the season include former Thompson champions Kyle Gero and Larry Barnett, along with former Seekonk Speedway Sportsman champion Corey Fanning. At the Icebreaker, Limited Sportsman drivers may also take the opportunity to compete in a 8-Cylinder Open Street Stock open on Saturday, which pays \$1,000 to win.

Rising over \$3,000, the SK Light Modified purse includes another \$350 to win, with \$250 for second and a strong distribution of funds throughout the field. As a division that puts some of the youth of Modified racing and vet-

erans together, it’s expected to be another stout year.

The Mini Stock thunder will return to Thompson with feature races set for \$200 to win and over \$1,600 in presented awards. Early entries for the season include Thompson veterans Russ Barboza, Tommy Silva and former division champion Steve Michalski.

Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park opens its 82nd season of oval track racing with the Icebreaker on Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11. The 10-division card includes the \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 for the Thompson Outlaw Open Modified Series, the PASS Super Late Models, and five Thompson weekly divisions. The 8-Cylinder Street Stock Open, NEMA Lites, and EXIT Realty Pro Truck Challenge round out the card. An optional Test N’ Tune practice day is slated for Friday, April 9 with all Icebreaker divisions welcome.

Send Us Your Sports Photos!
sports@turley.com

Build a legacy at the Warren Historical Commission

WARREN – Collectors and readers of Warren history admire the work of those who’ve gone before. The way they built their houses and helped develop the town, the old hotels and taverns, schools, banks and town halls. We’ve collected photographs, advertising pieces, historical accounts and artifacts. All these items were created by Warren people who were living and working here. It is their legacy. But now what will we leave behind?

Those who serve on the Warren Historical Commission can contribute their knowledge and efforts and leave their mark on the town records. Anyone who would like to create their legacy for future generations to admire should contact the Warren Selectmen and ask to be appointed to the Warren Historical Commission. Or, drop a line tosgbuck37@verizon.net to inquire for more information.

St. Aloysius scholarship drive in final push

GILBERTVILLE – St. Aloysius Catholic School is in the final days of its 2021-2022 scholarship drive. The school has been blessed with a pledge of \$35,000 in matching funds and is hopeful of reaching a full match this year.

“Last year, the scholarship drive raised slightly less than \$25,000. With matching funds, a total of \$49,858 was divided up to reduce tuitions for each of our 62 students. Currently, with the scholarship, it costs \$2,800 a year for a returning family’s first student in kindergarten through eighth-grade,

The Call of Kilimanjaro with Jeff Belanger on Zoom

WARREN – On Thursday, April 8, at 6 p.m., Jeff Belanger, will give an honest and engaging account of one amateur hiker’s journey to spiritual transformation as he climbs 19,341 feet to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro—Africa’s highest peak.

After his brother-in-law, Chris, passed away, author Jeff Belanger made the decision to take the trip of a lifetime, both in honor of Chris and in pursuit of clarity about his own life and goals. “The Call of Kilimanjaro” is a day-by-day record of Belanger’s ascent to the peak of Africa’s highest mountain.

is an author, podcaster, storyteller, adventurer and explorer of the unexplained. He’s written

more than a dozen books that have been published in six languages, he’s the Emmy-nominated host, writer, and producer of the New England Legends series on PBS and Amazon Prime, he provides programs and lectures to audiences all over the world, and he’s been the writer and researcher for every episode of Ghost Adventures on the Travel Channel.

It will be offered on Zoom and those interested should register for the event at jeffbelanger.com.

This program is sponsored by the Warren Public Library with a grant from the Warren Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Tri-Parish Community Church news

NEW BRAINTREE — Have you ever given thought to who Saint Patrick actually was? Well, thanks to a lot of research by Deacon Ginny Rich, the Tri-Parish Community Church service on Sunday, March 20, at the New Braintree Congregational Church, learned of an inspired Christian preacher; a man of legend; a man of

myth; and, a man whose dedication to converting the early Irish has lasted for centuries.

This Sunday, March 28, the service will be led by Rev. Kathleen Fitzgibbons, who will be assisted by Jennifer Pollard, at the New Braintree Congregational Church, at 10 a.m. Masks and social distancing are required. All are welcome.

Robert J. Mikalunas

Robert J. Mikalunas Jr, 51, died unexpectedly Monday, March 15, 2021. He was born in Northampton Oct. 16, 1969, to his parents, Robert J. Sr. and Rosalie {Vassallo} Mikalunas.

Robert was a graduate of Smith Vocational School in Northampton; he loved fishing, especially in the Quabbin Reservoir, and his dog, Brandy.

He is survived by his father, Robert Sr., and mother, Rosalie, nieces; Mikayla and Mackenzie Mikalunas, and their mother, Kelly Egan, and he was loved by many aunts, uncles and cousins. Robert was predeceased by his brother, Michael.

Dorothy H. Wood

HARDWICK – Dorothy Harriet (Scott) Wood, 97, of Hardwick, died on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at her home with her loving family by her side.

Born in Methuen 97 years ago, she was a daughter of Fred and Dorothy Scott, and sister of Colby and Phyllis. She graduated from Lawrence High School in 1941 and from the Lawrence General Hospital School of Nursing in 1948. Predeceased by her husband of 44 years, Robert M. Wood in 1992, and their son, Donald, in 1986, she is remembered fondly by her sons, Douglas, of Colorado, and David, of Massachusetts, and daughter, Martha, of Pennsylvania as well as grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

Dorothy worked as a hospital nurse at Lawrence General Hospital for 18 years, and then in community nursing and school nursing in Central Massachusetts for the remainder of her

Death notices

Mikalunas Jr., Robert J.
Died: March 15, 2021
Graveside service: March 23
St. Brigid’s Cemetery
Hadley

Wood (Scott), Dorothy Harriet
Died: March 10, 2021
Funeral at a later date
Spring Grove Cemetery
Andover

A graveside service will be held Tuesday March 23, at 11:30 a.m. in St. Brigid’s Cemetery, Hadley. Please practice all social distancing and COVID-19 protocols.

There is a memorial guestbook at www.douglassfuneral.com.



career, and continued advising friends and family as to their health after that. She had a lifelong regard and concern for children.

Condolences for the family can be sent to P.O. Box 131, Hardwick, MA 01037. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to the Lawrence General Hospital Memorial Fund, by sending a check to LGH Charitable Trust, 1 General St., P.O. Box 189, Lawrence, MA 01842 and note Dorothy’s name on the memo line.

Interment will be held at a later date in Spring Grove Cemetery, in Andover. Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware, is assisting her family with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at charbonneaufh.com.

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Visit us at www.turley.com

Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary announces scholarships

PALMER – The Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary has announced applications are now being accepted for their annual scholarship program. The scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors attending Ware, Belchertown, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, Pathfinder and Wilbraham high schools who are pursuing higher education in a healthcare field.

“Despite the current COVID-19 virus restrictions, limiting the group’s ability to fundraise, the Auxiliary members are proud to continue their annual tradition of offering seven \$1000 scholarships to

area students,” said Teresa Grove, Auxiliary vice president.

Scholarship application information:

All applications must be submitted via email by April 27.

Seven, one-year scholarships will be awarded by the Baystate Wing Auxiliary in May.

Each scholarship will be in the amount of \$1,000. Applicants must be planning to pursue a career in health care and must be accepted into an accredited health care program such as nursing, medicine, physical therapy, occupational ther-

apy, radiology, pharmacy, medical technology as well as other health care-related fields.

A student who is graduating from Ware, Belchertown, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, Pathfinder or Wilbraham high schools in 2021 can apply.

Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary scholarship applications are available in each school’s guidance office and will be accepted by email only.

For more information, student applicants should speak to their guidance counselor.

Ware Amvets Post 2577 offers Michael H. Deslauriers Scholarship

WARE – The Ware Amvets Post 2577 will award the annual Michael H. Deslauriers Scholarship to a graduating senior residing in Ware regardless of the school district they attend.

Michael Deslauriers was a devoted musician sharing his talents with the town of Ware. He represented the town at the Quabbin Music Festival, Western District Festival and was a member of the Ware Community Band. A music graduate of Westfield State he continued to honor the veterans of the town by playing taps at their burial ceremony and also at all the patriotic and memorial events.

Students who wish to apply for this award of \$1,000, need only to send their school transcript and an essay stating their accomplishments and what their future plans are. Applications are available at school guidance offices and must be submitted by May 1.

Please mail applications to Ware Amvets Post 2577, C/O Richard Rucki, 8 First Ave., Ware, MA 01082.

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52	53	54				55				56		57	58	59
60						61			62		63			
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

CLUES ACROSS

- Volcanic crater
- Long times
- Swedish rock group
- Having the means to do something
- Rods or spindles
- La _ Tar Pits, Hollywood
- Missing soldiers
- Measuring instrument
- All of the components considered individually
- Play “_ Irish Rose”
- Gene
- Barrels
- London-based soccer team
- Feline
- Breed of sheep
- Body part
- Doctors’ group
- One who follows the rules
- Cigarette residue


CLUES DOWN

- Ancient Greek sophist
- Polish yeast cakes
- Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- Completed perfectly
- Photo
- A peninsula in SW Asia
- The common gibbon
- Disfigure
- Ribonucleic acid
- Japanese honorific
- Pieces of music
- Expressed pleasure
- Having ten
- Type of sword
- Humble request for help
- Eating houses
- Italian Seaport
- Cain and _
- Measure the depth
- U. of Miami’s mascot
- Political outsiders
- Greek sorceress
- Body part

CLUES DOWN

- Mother
- Jewish calendar month
- Jai _ sport
- Establish again
- Swiss river
- Racetrack wager
- _ but goodie
- Closeness
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- At right angles to a ship’s length
- Women’s undergarments
- Mountain stream
- Expresses pleasure
- Painful places on the body
- Automobile
- Scandinavian god of battle
- Expresses surprise
- Secret political clique
- Yields manila hemp
- River in central Italy
- Brain injury science acronym

- Mental illness
- A person from Asia
- Father
- General’s assistant (abbr.)
- Cooked or prepared in a specified style
- Large terrier
- Hillside
- Golf score
- Not or
- Type of student
- Flower cluster
- Closes tightly
- Saudi Arabian desert
- Famed vaccine developer
- Multi-function radar (abbr.)
- Actress Jessica
- Pay attention to
- Beloved big screen pig
- _ Clapton, musician
- Take a chance
- Cost per mille
- Helps little firms



CHURCH DIRECTORY

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
“An Open and Welcoming Faith Community”
Park & Pleasant Streets
P.O. Box 447, Ware, Massachusetts 01082
413-967-6100 trinityware.org
Jubilee Cupboard – 967-3274
The Rev. Mary E. Rosendale
D.D. - Bishop Episcopal Diocese Western Massachusetts
Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 10am-2pm and by appt. Please call the cell number: 413-687-5568

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m., Children’s Chapel 9:30 a.m.
“You don’t have to be Episcopal to share the Word and Fellowship of the Spirit” No matter who you are or where you have been, You are welcome.

THE JUBILEE CUPBOARD provides emergency food assistance and is open Thursdays from 9 AM until noon. The location is next door to Trinity Church directly behind the Old Ware Fire Station. Please phone 413-967-3274. Donations of non-perishable food are welcomed by The Jubilee Cupboard during open hours only or make arrangements for pickup. Food may also be donated to The Jubilee Cupboard at a drop off box at the Big Y Supermarket in Ware. AA Thursdays, 7:30pm

UNITED CHURCH OF WARE
49 Church Street, Ware, MA 01082
413-967-9981

Office Hours: Monday 9-12/Tuesday 8:30-12:30/ Wed 9-2/Thurs 9-12/Friday closed

Saturday: Worship service 5:00 p.m (Communion offered each week, Healing Worship on second Saturday of each month)
Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 p.m.
Sunday: Worship service 10:30 a.m. (Communion offered first Sunday of each month)
Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday School - 10:45 a.m., Children’s Church after Children’s Sermon each Sunday. Coffee hour after service
Tuesday: T.O.P.S. 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Weight Watchers 5:00-7:30 p.m.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH
17 North Street, Ware
ST. MARY’S CHURCH
57 South Street, Ware
Pastor: Rev. Fr. Piotr Calik

General Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday: 9am - 12pm; Friday: Closed
Cemetery Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday: 10am - 2pm; Friday: Closed
Phone numbers: 413-967-5913; 413-967-4963
Fax Number: 413-967-4679
Emails: allsaintschurch17@gmail.com
stmaryschurch60@gmail.com
www.allsaintsware.org • www.stmarysware.org

Mass Schedule:
4:00 PM Saturday - All Saints
5:15 PM Saturday - St. Mary’s

8:00 AM Sunday - All Saints
9:30 AM Sunday - St. Mary’s
5:15 PM Sunday - All Saints

WEEKDAY MASSES
Monday and Tuesday 7:30 AM at All Saints
Wednesday and Thursday 7:30 AM at St. Mary’s
First Friday 8:00 AM at All Saints
First Saturday 8:00 AM at St. Mary’s

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION
All Saints – Saturday 3:00 - 3:30 PM
St. Mary’s – Saturday before the 5:15 PM Mass

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION
Vigil: 5:30 pm at All Saints
Day: 7:30 am - All Saints
12:10 pm - St. Mary’s
6:30 pm - St. Mary’s

Parish Office for both Churches is located at 60 South Street, Ware - MA 01082.
Due to Covid-19 pandemic time our office is open by appointment only.

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALOYSIUS
58 Church St., Gilbertville, Tel. 477-6493
The Rev. Richard Lembo, Pastor
Saturday Confession: 3 p.m.; Vigil Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 7:30 a.m.

ST. AUGUSTINE MISSION
98 Church Lane, Wheelwright, MA
413-477-6493
The Rev. Richard Lembo, Pastor
Sunday 9 a.m.

HOLY CROSS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH
61 Maple St., Ware, Tel. 967-3782
Fr. Senior Fryderyk Banas, Pastor
Sunday: 9 a.m. Mass

LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH
(formerly QVBC)
258A Malbouef Road, Ware
Phone: 413-668-7041
Email: LBC7@gmail.com
Web: www.lbc7.com

Sunday Service times:
9:30am Prayer and Fellowship
10:00am Bible School
11:00am Worship Service

The LBC family of believers invite you to join us as we work together to serve God in our community.

We are dedicated to spiritual growth through purposeful prayer, truthful teaching, and practical preaching.

We rely on the Bible as our source of all Godly wisdom and truth.

We proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior given freely by God and offered to all who choose to believe in Him.

GEORGE WHITEFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
33 West Main St., West Brookfield
Tel. 508-867-3667
Pastor Christy Wright

Worship and Sunday School, Sundays 9:30 am followed by coffee hour.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
108 New Braintree Rd., North Brookfield
774-286-1322
SUNDAY SCHEDULE Services start at 10 a.m.

TRI-PARISH COMMUNITY CHURCH
3 Oakham Rd., P.O. Box 202
New Braintree 508-867-3306

The Tri-Parish Community Church represents the communities of Gilbertville, Hardwick, and New Braintree. Our service will begin at 10:00. Bible Study begins on 9/13 at 8:15 am - 9:30am. Choir Rehearsals are at 9am and Sunday School returns on 9/13 at 10:00 am. We are worshipping at The First Universalist Church of Hardwick, 9 Ruggles Hill Rd. Hardwick through December.

All are welcome to worship and join in fellowship and light refreshment following the service.

Change of Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10am - noon. Heidi Jeldres, Administrative Assistant. (508)867-3306 tri-parish@verizon.net.

Appointments can be scheduled at either the Pastor’s office or at your home when needed. Please contact Pastor Deb to make arrangements. debashops@aol.com or (413)478-0731. Beginning 7/6 our Worship Service move to The First Universalist Church of Hardwick through the end of the year. From 7/6 - 8/31 Worship will begin at 9:30 am. All are welcome.

The mission of the Tri-Parish Community Church is service to God by working together as a church to alleviate suffering and to foster hope, love and the word of Jesus Christ among our family and neighbors here and throughout the world.

It’s always good to have a variety of voices in the pulpit. Come, support our worship leaders and enjoy the earlier service.

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH
1082 Main Street, Warren, Tel. 436-7327
MASS SCHEDULE: Sundays 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

ST. STANISLAUS CHURCH
2270 Main Street, West Warren
MASS SCHEDULE Saturdays 4 p.m.

QUABBIN VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST
43 Main Street, Ware, MA
Sunday Morning service: 10:30am – 11:30am
For more info James Chaisson
774-200-0542
Email: goodnews@quabbinvalleychurch.net
Website: www.quabbinvalleychurch.net

KINGDOM BUSINESS R.E.A.C.H MINISTRIES
(Realistic Evangelistic Active Christian Hearts)
Pastor, Rev. Dr. Errol J. Estridge
58 Main St, Ware, MA Tel. 413-668-9981
email:thekingdombusiness.ware@verizon.net
Tues 6-7pm, Substance Recovery Ministry
Wednesday 6:00-7:00 pm, Bible Study
Thursday 6:00-7:30 pm, Women Ministry
Friday 6:00-7:00 pm, Prayer Meeting
Saturday TBA, Men’s Ministry
Sunday 10:30, Sunday Worship
C. H. A. N. C. E. Tutoring Ministry (Children Having a Nurturing and Caring Environment)
September - May, After school, Monday - Thursday 4:00-6:00pm

UPPER ROOM CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
18 Central St., West Warren, Tel. 436-7559
Joel Hickey, pastor
Sunday: 10 a.m worship; Thursday: 7 p.m. Intercessory Prayer

UNIVERSALIST-UNITARIAN
St. Paul’s Church of Palmer
1060 Central St., Palmer, MA, 283-8185
Sunday: 10:00 am service followed by coffee hour. Children’s Religious Education also at 10:00 am.

OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART PARISH
Sacred Heart Church 22 W. Main St., West Brookfield
& St. Mary Oratory 11 Lincoln St., Brookfield
508 867-6469
rectory@sacredheartwb.com
website: ourladyofthesacredheart.org
Mass Times:
M-Th 8:00am @ Sacred Heart
Saturday Vigil 4:30pm @ St. Mary
Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am @ Sacred Heart
Holy Day Vigil 7:00pm @ St. Mary
Holy Day 9:00am @ St. Mary & 7:00pm @ Sacred Heart

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST BROOKFIELD, UCC
36 N. Main St., W. Brookfield, 508-867-7078
Interim Pastor - The Rev. Stacey Kullgren
Worship 10 AM
Sunday School - 10 AM (except the first Sunday of each month)
Call for Bible Study and Youth Group meeting times.

WARE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH
56a Main St., Ware, Tel. 967-0211
Pastor Jim Van Etten, B.A.D.F.
Sunday: 11 a.m. worship service, nursery and children’s church, 4 p.m. worship service
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Bible Study/Prayer Fellowship

WARE CONGREGATION OF JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES
Sunday 10:00 a.m. Weekend Meeting
Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Midweek Meeting

EMMANUEL ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CHURCH
25 Winthrop Terrace, Warren, MA 01083
(413) 436-5582
Fr. Christopher Nerreau
www.emmanuelorthodox.org
Morning Matins Sundays 9:00am
Confession 2nd Sunday of the month 9:00am or by appointment
Holy Mass Sunday’s 9:30am, Coffee hour following Mass
Free Community Meal: First Tuesday of the month. All are welcome

public safety

Ware Police Log

Monday, March 15 5:26 a.m. Ambulance Request Coffey Hill Road – Referred to Other Agency 5:53 a.m. Alarm Burglar Pleasant Street – Services Rendered 7:21 a.m. Ambulance Request Greenwich Plains Road – Services Rendered 9:47 a.m. Larceny, Theft Report West Street – Services Rendered 10:12 a.m. Abandoned, 911 Call Eddy Court – Services Rendered 12:50 p.m. Ambulance Request King Street – Referred to Other Agency 4:30 p.m. Vandalism East Main Street – Investigated, Report Filed 4:33 p.m. Trash Dumping Complaint West Street – Services Rendered 5:50 p.m. Silent, 911 Call South Street – Services Rendered	Thursday, March 18 9:47 a.m. Fire, Report Greenwich Road – Services Rendered 3:19 p.m. Ambulance Request Coffey Hill Road – Services Rendered 5:10 p.m. Larceny, Theft Report West Street – Investigated, Report Filed 5:40 p.m. Ambulance Request South Street – Referred to Other Agency 7:08 p.m. Ambulance Request West Street – Referred to Other Agency 7:49 p.m. Ambulance Request Hillside Village – Referred to Other Agency 7:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Pleasant Street – Arrest, Misdemeanor Charge Arrest: Brett A. Ostrander, 28, Belchertown License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With; Drug, Possess Class B; Drug, Possess Class B; Lights Violation, Motor Vehicle	Friday, March 19 6:20 a.m. Ambulance Request Sorel Road – Services Rendered 7:45 a.m. Accident, Vehicle West Main Street – Services Rendered 8:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Street – Citation Issued 11:49 a.m. Hang-up, 911 Call Gould Road – Services Rendered 1:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation East Road – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000 4:50 p.m. Ambulance Request Sherman Hill Road – Services Rendered 5:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Warren Road – Written Warning 6:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Street – Citation Issued 6:08 p.m. Fraud Hillside Village – Services Rendered 6:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Belchertown Road – Arrest, Misdemeanor Charge Arrest: Mary A. Challet, 33, Hardwick Marked Lanes Violation; Drug, Possess Class B; Drug, Possess	Saturday, March 20 12:55 a.m. Alarm Burglar Palmer Road – Services Rendered 7:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Main Street – Written Warning 8:48 a.m. Ambulance Request Fisherdick Road – Referred to Other Agency 11:08 a.m. Hang-up, 911 Call Coldbrook Drive – Services Rendered 2 p.m. Trash Dumping Complaint West Street – Services Rendered 2:12 p.m. Ambulance Request Palmer Road – Referred to Other Agency 6:12 p.m. Ambulance Request Oak Ridge Circle – Services Rendered	Sunday, March 21 10:12 a.m. Silent, 911 Call Belchertown Road – Services Rendered 10:40 a.m. Ambulance Request Osborne Road – Referred to Other Agency 11:30 a.m. Trespassing Complaint Belchertown Road – Services Rendered 12:19 p.m. Harassment Complaint Beaver Lake Road – Services Rendered 1:07 p.m. Accident (Hit and Run) Clinton Street – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000 4:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Street – Written Warning 6:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Street – Written Warning 9:49 p.m. Missing Person Cherry Street – Services Rendered	Monday, March 22 5:48 a.m. Ambulance Request Old Poor Farm Road – Services Rendered 9:53 a.m. Accident, Vehicle West Street – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000	Sunday, March 14 12:15 p.m. Brush and Wildland Fires Keys Road – Fire Extinguished 12:56 p.m. Airway Control Trauma Hawkes Road – Transported to Hospital	Monday, March 15 3:19 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Constitution Avenue – Officer Advised 5:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning 6:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued	Tuesday, March 16 6:31 a.m. Sick/Unknown Cutler Road – Transported to Hospital 11:11 a.m. Falls Heritage Drive -Transported to Hospital 4:03 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Pine Street – Officer Took all 5:23 p.m. Harassment East Road – Officer Advised 6:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued 7:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued 7:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued 7:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop	Wednesday, March 17 12:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning 1:59 p.m. Larceny/Theft Southbridge Road – Officer Advised 2:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Written Warning 5:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning 5:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued 7:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning	Thursday, March 18 9:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning 12:03 p.m. Harassment Winthrop Terrace – Officer Spoke to Party 2:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Burbank Avenue – Written Warning 3:40 p.m. Fire, Inspection Winthrop Terrace – Investigated	Friday, March 19 6:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Parkview Street – Arrest(s) Made	Saturday, March 20 10:31 a.m. Larceny/Theft Brimfield Road – Report Filed 10:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident Unknown – Referred to Other Agency	Sunday, March 21 1:23 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/Fire Main Street – Report Filed	Arrest: Kevin P. Belanger, 41, Warren Fugitive from Justice on Court Warrant; No Inspection/Sticker
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Warren Police Log

Sunday, March 14 12:15 p.m. Brush and Wildland Fires Keys Road – Fire Extinguished 12:56 p.m. Airway Control Trauma Hawkes Road – Transported to Hospital	Monday, March 15 3:19 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Constitution Avenue – Officer Advised 5:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning 6:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued	Tuesday, March 16 6:31 a.m. Sick/Unknown Cutler Road – Transported to Hospital 11:11 a.m. Falls Heritage Drive -Transported to Hospital 4:03 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Pine Street – Officer Took all 5:23 p.m. Harassment East Road – Officer Advised 6:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued 7:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued 7:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued 7:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop	Wednesday, March 17 12:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning 1:59 p.m. Larceny/Theft Southbridge Road – Officer Advised 2:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Written Warning 5:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning 5:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued 7:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning	Thursday, March 18 9:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning 12:03 p.m. Harassment Winthrop Terrace – Officer Spoke to Party 2:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Burbank Avenue – Written Warning 3:40 p.m. Fire, Inspection Winthrop Terrace – Investigated	Friday, March 19 6:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Parkview Street – Arrest(s) Made	Saturday, March 20 10:31 a.m. Larceny/Theft Brimfield Road – Report Filed 10:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident Unknown – Referred to Other Agency	Sunday, March 21 1:23 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/Fire Main Street – Report Filed	Arrest: Kevin P. Belanger, 41, Warren Fugitive from Justice on Court Warrant; No Inspection/Sticker
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Fire Marshal announces no child deaths in fires for two years

STOW – There have been no deaths of children in fires over the last two years, and state officials are crediting education programs as one of the prime reasons for that statistic.

“On January 8, 2021, I announced that for the first time on record, there had been zero child fire deaths in a calendar year,” State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey said. “Today (March 18) marks a new milestone. It has been two whole years since a child has died in a fire in Massachusetts.” The last fire that claimed a child’s life occurred on March 16, 2019, in Pittsfield.

“I attribute this record-breaking milestone to the 26 years of the Student Awareness of Fire Education Program (S.A.F.E.). Firefighters and classroom teachers have raised a fire safe generation of children by teaching key fire safety lessons in an age-appropriate manner that fits with the state’s curriculum frameworks,” said Ostroskey.

“The collaboration between firefighter-educators and classroom teachers has made fire safety accessible to our youngsters who brought these messages home to their families. Thank you,” Fire Chief Michael Newbury, president of the Fire Chiefs’ Association of Massachusetts said.

So far this year, there have been 12 fire deaths and 75% of the victims were people over 65. “Regardless of your age, make sure you have working smoke alarms that are less than 10-years-old on every level of your home and practice your home escape plan,” said Ostroskey. “You may only have one to three minutes to escape a typical house fire before being overcome by toxic gases and extreme heat.”

Building on the success of the Student Awareness of the Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program, the state created the Senior SAFE Program to reduce fire deaths among what is now the most vulnerable population – seniors. People over 65 account for nearly half of all fire deaths in the commonwealth.

Both the S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE Programs provide grants to local fire departments to collaborate with local schools and senior service agencies to provide fire safety education.

public notices

Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE SP-2021-03

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting Authority, will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, April 15 at 7:05 PM** on the application of Mar Delrosario for a Special Permit (SP-2021-03). Applicant is requesting approval for a home occupation to convert the basement of a single family home into a single chair barber-shop. The hearing will be held in the Selectmen’s Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Town Hall, Ware, MA. Public is encouraged to attend via digital platform **Zoom** Meetings. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784-604-1861; Password: 01082. SITE LOCATION: 130 West Main St, Ware, MA. Deed recorded in the Hampshire County

Registry of Deeds, Book 12878, Page 83. Assessor’s Parcel 24-0-32. Zoned: Suburban Residential (SR). A complete copy of the application can be found at the Town Clerk’s office by appointment and on the Planning & Community Development Department website under Recent Filings. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated. WARE PLANNING BOARD Richard Starodoj, Chairman 03/25, 04/01/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampshire Probate and Family Court 15 Atwood Drive Northampton, MA 01060 (413)586-8500 Docket No. HS18P0542EA Estate of: Kimberly Lenore Gilbert Date of Death: 08/21/2017 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for S/A -Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by **Jennifer Lee Gilbert** of Ware, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests

that: **Jennifer Lee Gilbert** of Ware, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in an **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/21/2021**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Linda S Fidnick**, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 17, 2021 **Michael J. Carey** Register of Probate 03/25/2021

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Scott Gagnon and Linda K. McGuigan to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, acting solely as a nominee for Fremont Investment & Loan, dated August 11, 2005 and recorded in Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 8395, Page 229 (the “Mortgage”), as affected by Judgment dated March 17, 2020, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 13743, Page 298 of which mortgage U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee relating to J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp. 2005-FRE1 Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-FRE1 is the present holder by Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Fremont Investment & Loan, its successors and assigns to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee relating to J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp. 2005-FRE1 Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-FRE1 dated September 19, 2013 and recorded at said Registry

of Deeds in Book 11650, Page 330, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 37 Benham Avenue, Ware, MA 01082 will be sold at a Public Auction at **12:00 PM on April 22, 2021**, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain tract or parcel of land situate in Ware, more particularly described as lots numbered 109 and 110 in Prospect Park Tract, the same in size and location in accordance with a Map of Plan of said Tract now on file with Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 642, Pages 432 and 433, to which reference is made for a more particular description.

For our title to this above parcel see Quitclaim Deed from Steven Edward Wyzik and Celia Wyzik to Grantors under date of February 23, 1977 and recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 1937, Page 81.

Also a second certain tract of land in said Ware, more particularly described as lots numbered 138 and 139 in the Prospect Park Tract, the same in size and location in accordance with Map or Plan of said Tract now on file with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 642, Pages 432 and 433, to which reference is made for a more particular description.

Joining in this con-

veyance is the said Celia Wyzik of said Ware, and thereby she releases her right to put a trailer or mobile home on parcel described immediately above, and any other rights reserved to her as Grantor under Quitclaim Deed of December 13, 1988 recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 3301, Page 262, which serves as title reference concerning the Grantors in regard to this second tract.

For mortgagor’s title see deed recorded with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 8395, Page 227.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier’s or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee’s attorney, Korde

& Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851 or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee relating to J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp. 2005-FRE1 Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-FRE1 Korde & Associates, P.C. 900 Chelmsford Street Suite 3102 Lowell, MA 01851 (978) 256-1500 Gagnon, Scott and McGuigan, Linda, 13-012505 03/25, 04/01, 04/08/2021

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING

A notice is hereby given that a Community Outreach Meeting for a proposed Marijuana Establishment is scheduled for **April 12, 2021 at 5:30 PM**. This meeting will take place on Zoom as a result of COVID-19. The link to this zoom meeting will be available through <http://www.townofhardwick.com/Calendar.html>. The proposed Marijuana Establishment is anticipated to be located at 664 North Road, Hardwick MA 01037. The public will be able to ask questions.

This proposal by Budding Botanicals,

Editor’s Note: People in this country are presumed to be innocent until found guilty in a court of law. Police provide us with the information you read on this page as public record information. If you or any suspect listed here is found not guilty or has charges dropped or reduced, we will gladly print that information as a follow-up upon being presented with documented proof of the court’s final disposition.

Arrest: Kevin P. Belanger, 41, Warren
Fugitive from Justice on Court Warrant; No Inspection/Sticker

Saturday, March 20
10:31 a.m. Larceny/Theft Brimfield Road – Report Filed
10:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident Unknown – Referred to Other Agency

Sunday, March 21
1:23 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/Fire Main Street – Report Filed

LLC., to be licensed as a marijuana cultivator, would permit Budding Botanicals, LLC. to cultivate, process, sell, and transport marijuana product to other marijuana establishments in the state of Massachusetts, however, it does NOT permit the operator to provide product directly to consumers.

Zoom Meeting (Direct Link):

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84634451058?pwd=MUJxNEdQdVoxakp5VkFPa3R5dW15UT09>

Zoom Meeting (Shortened URL):

<https://tinyurl.com/BuddingBotanicals>
Meeting ID: 846 3445 1058
Passcode: 3ZfCvE 03/25/2021

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Law 105A, for the purpose of satisfying the liens of **Country Corners Storage & Realty**, in order to satisfy past due rents and other expenses, the contents of the following storage unit will be sold for non-payment on **Saturday, April 3, 2021 at 10 a.m.** on the premises of **Country Corners Storage, 50 Greenwich Rd., Ware, MA (413)967-6095**.

Sarah McNamee: Storage Building 6 Unit 30

03/18, 03/25/2021

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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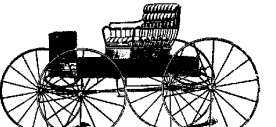
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